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THE
PALL MALL
GAZETTE

SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 18, 1890.

No. 7749.—VOL. L.

Price One Penny.

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SLEEPLESS NIGHTS BANISHED.
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(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. BERNSTEIN TREE.)
EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, A MAN'S SHADOW by ROBERT BUCHANAN. Mr. TREE as JACQUE and LIVE RAIN. Messrs. Fernandez, Kemble, C. Collette, E. M. Robson, Allan, Hargreaves, Tarpley, Gurney, Harwood; Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Minnie Terry, Miss Norreys

until we arrive. Half our expenses go in advertising in the press and on the walls."

METHOD AND ORGANIZATION.

"The great secret is merely method, and strictness with our people. Your Queen's soldiers, who are employed here for 'Nero,' tell us that we are stricter than their sergeants. We have to be in dealing with such a large body of men and women. After years of experience we have formulated a system which works admirably. I am speaking of our travelling arrangements, when we are on the road—here to-day and gone to-morrow. Just keep in mind some of the figures: next season we shall have to remove 1,200 people, 14 elephants, 22 camels, lions, tigers, 400 horses, 50 ponies, thousands of costumes—all the apparatus necessary for the performers, seats, canvas, stakes for the mammoth tent, which may have to accommodate from 22,000 to 25,000 people. You know what would happen if things were not in their places when they were wanted. It is done by dividing the establishment into many departments. Take the canvasmen: they are under the direction of bosses, and under-bosses, each of whom is responsible for the men under him, and the variety of canvas in use. So one gang of men takes charge of the canvas, another of seats, another of the stakes. Then again, the ring-master is responsible for the performing horses, and his department is again divided into sections. The caged animals are dealt with in the same way. The 14 elephants have 12 men to look after them. The 22 camels have 17 men."

JUST LIKE A BIG BUSINESS.

"The whole show is worked like any other great business organization. We pay well, we exact the strictest discipline, and the good men rise to the top. If a man is a loafer he is soon found out and goes. Then we have a system of fines for certain offences, which also helps to maintain authority. From what you have seen at Olympia you will understand how the rings are worked: every performer must be at one of the entrances to the arena, to be ready for his turn; and every turn is timed, so that hitches seldom occur. If anything goes wrong, we know who is responsible, and he is at once interrogated at headquarters."

THE HOTEL ON WHEELS.

"An hotel, consisting of eight waggons, two of which are devoted to cooking, is part of the equipment of the travelling show. The feeding of such a number of people is no small task, for most of the army prefers the hotel on wheels to the hotel on land. I have a car of my own upon which I have lived for seven months, and enjoy it. When the hotel gets to the town where we are to stop breakfast is served, and then come dinner and supper later on. We always try to give each town some of our custom, and our agents in advance have already arranged for the delivery of so much food at our cars. The whole of these arrangements are made by the head caterer. When 'Nero' takes the field our caterer will have to provide for 3,000 a day on the show grounds, which will require 100 cooks and waiters to serve them."

THE WINTER QUARTERS.

"In the same way, our agents in advance have arranged for food for the animals. Say a man reaches a town, the first thing he does is to find the principal dealers in hay, oats, and so on, and then he tries to excite a little competition. It is all simple if you work well in advance."

"During the remaining five months we remain at our headquarters at Bridgeport, where we have a large establishment covering fifteen acres of ground, or about fifteen times the size of Olympia. This includes nine buildings 700 ft. long and 300 feet wide; and of our staff 300 permanent employés remain right through the year. Here we have workshops for mechanics, carpenters, costume-makers, wheelwrights, and so on; and rings for breaking and training animals. During the winter the show is thoroughly overhauled, and the equipment made as good as new. Here we also keep our reserves of all sorts."

THE CURIOS—HUMAN AND OTHERWISE.

"All curios come to Barnum's," said Mr. Bailey slowly. "Barnum's name is a beacon whose rays are visible to all the world. To acquire fresh curios we have twelve agents always travelling in the four quarters of the globe. If Stanley told us of a new and remarkable race of men in Central Africa, say with eyes in their foreheads, we should organize an expedition and get some samples for the museum of the Greatest Show. At most ports all over the world the American Consul will act for us. If he hears of some freak which he thinks will do for Barnum, he advises us. Since we've been in London we have had many offers, such as of a one-eyed chicken, a white rat with two noses, and a five-legged horse. Of course we have to draw the line at freaks which might be offensive. What do I consider the best phenomenon? Jumbo, of course, and he would always have been a draw. Freaks have their brief span of popularity, and then they are replaced by fresh freaks. Every year they are becoming more difficult to find, and if you hear of a three-headed boy or girl I will give you a handsome commission on the signing of his engagement with Barnum and Bailey. I may say that where a hundred freaks are offered about one is engaged."

CORRESPONDENCE.

FOR SISTER ROSE GERTRUDE.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—I enclose my cheque for £5 towards the piano for Sister Rose Gertrude, but decline to have my name mentioned. If your readers should not subscribe a sufficient amount for a piano to be bought and sent out, please send the £5 to Cardinal Manning, to be given to some Catholic charity at his discretion.—Yours faithfully,

HEROINE WORSHIPPER.

Turf Club, January 17.

"MUD AND PETTICOATS."

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—There is much sense in the article on "Mud and Petticoats" which appears in your issue of this evening, but is the reform you suggest capable of being carried out without some combined action on the part of womankind? Fashion, a more or less fickle guide, at present regulates costume far too strictly to permit of any sensible-minded woman adopting, on her own initiative, such a garment as you depict in your columns, and who can tell who pulls the strings of fashion? Would it not be possible, when a change of such universal utility is proposed, for some milliner or dressmaker to undertake the production of a dress, becoming as well as suitable to the desired end, on the condition of a certain number of ladies ordering *and wearing* it? There would then be no cause to fear being considered eccentric or immodest. My idea is crude, perhaps, and crudely expressed, but it seems to me capable of expansion and adaptation, and I offer it for what it may be worth. Enclosing my card,—I am, Sir, yours truly,

A HUSBAND.

Devonshire Club, Jan. 14.

THE JOYS OF NOVEL WRITING.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Edmund Yates in his "Black Sheep" writes an enthusiastic chapter on the joys of novel writing; and probably there are moments of joy in the work, but there are also hours of sorrow. At least, such is my experience. For instance, I wrote last year a novel, which I entitled "A Mad World." The instant its forthcoming production was announced some person suddenly remembered that they had written a pamphlet on lunatic asylums bearing that title. Thereupon I had to re-christen my book "A Very Mad World." This was bad enough, but worse remained behind. For the past fortnight a novel by me has been announced in the papers under the title of "A Loose Rein." Last Monday the book was printed, bound, and ready for the trade. But, alas! by the morning post came a letter from some person to the publishers (Ward and Downey) stating that the writer had published something or other (he forgets when) called "A Loose Rein," and would the publisher kindly withdraw the advertisement of my book, and alter the title? This Messrs. Ward and Downey have had to do, at great expense; for, of course, *all* the edition already printed is useless. Is it not time, Sir, that some rule with regard to titles of books was laid down by publishers and authors combined?—Yours truly,

FRANK HUDSON.

Jan. 17.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The United Unionists of Scotland have begun fighting among themselves, it seems, over Mr. Sellar's seat even before Mr. Sellar's remains have been laid to rest. The Tories—so their organs inform us—have already held a private meeting, and two or three eligible Tory candidates are "talked of." But meanwhile "a crowded meeting" of the Liberal Unionists has also been held, at which a resolution was unanimously carried, declaring that the right of stepping into Mr. Sellar's shoes (if they can) belongs to one of them. It is a pretty quarrel as it stands, and it will not stop where it is. We shall have a Birmingham in every Unionist constituency soon.

The *Standard* is quite wrong in its description of the politics of "the father of the House of Commons." On the Home Rule Bill division he abstained. "Since that time," says the *Standard*, "Mr. Talbot was generally classed as a Unionist, although his attitude was somewhat uncertain." This is the reverse of the fact; Mr. Talbot's attitude was defined with the utmost clearness in his 1886 election address, and he was universally classed by those who knew anything about it as a Home Rule Liberal. The stumbling-block in his way on the eventful division was declared by him to be the exclusion of the Irish members. Being rightly convinced, however, that this fatal feature would not appear in any future Home Rule Bill, he stood at the General Election as a Home Ruler, and as such was returned. As his election then, as well as in 1885, was unopposed, there is no means of gauging the probable results should the Tories venture to contest Mid-Glamorganshire now.

The Coercionists coerced! Such might have been the heading of a little paragraph in the *Times*'s Irish news this morning:—

Messrs. Considine and Irwin, resident magistrates, gave judgment to-day in the prosecution of Mr. Fisher, of the *Waterford Express*, upon a similar charge to that decided last week on appeal by Mr. Waters, county court judge. Mr. Considine said they were coerced by the decision of Judge Waters to dismiss the case.

A case is, however, to be stated for the Queen's Bench. We shall thus see whether the High Court is as zealous to defend the freedom of the press as County Court Judge Waters.

Meanwhile it is worth recording in this connection a piece of justice which the press obtained in the Exchequer Division yesterday:—

A judgment was obtained against Lord Annaly as executor of his father's estate. This judgment was erroneously recorded in Dublin as having been obtained against Lord Annaly as an individual, and not in his trust capacity. Stubbs and Co. extracted the judgment and published it in their paper in the exact form in which it was registered on the court books. Lord Annaly sued for damages, the jury giving him £250. The judges, on appeal, have ordered the verdict to be entered for the defendants. This decision is important as showing that newspapers are not liable for publishing matters of record, even if an error has been made in the record, provided they have copied the entry from the court books without negligence and without malice.

The school of journalism which finds its *raison d'être* in insolence is excellently represented in Scotland by the *Scots Observer* of Edinburgh. Its usual occupation is, of course, to revile Mr. Gladstone; but in leisure moments it turns the stream of obloquy upon less prominent personages. Its latest achievement is an onslaught on Dr. F. J. Furnivall, in which it suggests that the Browning Society was established because the Founder ascertained that "the author of 'Sordello' always had lunch on the table at one o'clock." The Browning Society is certainly an institution open to criticism and ridicule; but this is neither—it is stupid vulgarity.

We are glad to see that Mr. Justice Hawkins let the foolish fellow Wier off lightly. Wier pleaded guilty, and was merely bound over in his own recognizances to come up for judgment if called for. Wier should think himself lucky, for when once the Government determined to prosecute him his fate rested with the judges, and he might easily have found a judge less cool-headed than Sir Henry Hawkins. It is a lucky escape, too, for the *Times*; for if Wier's words had been treated seriously, there would—on Balfourian principles—have been an irresistible case for proceeding also against the newspaper which gave all the currency and publicity it could to the "incitement to murder."

Where is Mr. Burns? Entirely absorbed, perhaps, in horrified contemplation of Mr. Stanley's evil deeds? We ask the question, for it seems to us that he is badly wanted at the Docks again. The repeated strikes in miniature which are now cropping up show that the men are getting a little out of hand, and are forgetting the necessity for that moderation which has been the cause of their success so far. Of course, Mr. Mann is right in getting all he can for the men, and, of course, the agreement "cannot be binding for ever." But there is a good deal of difference between "for ever" and two months.

Mr. Huish in the *Nineteenth Century*, Mr. Quilter in the *Universal Review*, and other writers elsewhere have fallen into an error about the attendances at the National Gallery, which was corrected in the *Pall Mall Gazette* some time ago. The attendance of visitors has decreased, they say, from 871,500 in 1880 to 550,817 in 1888; but they forget to add that turnstiles were only fixed to record the actual numbers in March, 1888. Before that date the figures of attendances were the result of little more than guesswork, and were notoriously exaggerated. It is, therefore, highly probable that the decrease, on which Mr. Quilter founds an elaborate disquisition, is nominal rather than real.

Neither Sir Charles Russell nor the Lord Chief Justice was quite right in his reference yesterday to the famous Braddon-Tichborne aphorism about brains and money. According to Sir Charles Russell:—

The Tichborne Claimant uttered a truth, expressed, perhaps, not in the most elegant language, but he divided the world into two classes. "Some men has money but no brains; and some men has brains and no money; surely them as has money and no brains is made for them as has brains and no money."

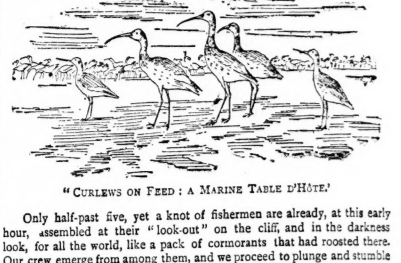
According to the Lord Chief Justice, "the words in question came from one of Miss Braddon's novels." The fact, however, is (as Lord Coleridge ought to have remembered) that the idea is Miss Braddon's and the phrasing of it as quoted above the Tichborne Claimant's. Here is the passage in the summing-up in which Lord Coleridge's predecessor cleared the matter up:—

Now, I must say that R. C. Tichborne, Bart., had no business to appropriate a passage which does not belong to R. C. Tichborne, Bart., but to Miss Braddon, and still less to change Miss Braddon's language into such unmistakable vernacular as that which he uses. That distinguished authoress sent me a copy of the work, "Aurora Floyd," in which the passage occurs, while I caused me, perhaps, to spend too much time over it, for I read that very interesting novel from beginning to end. She puts into the mouth of one of her characters these words:—"I should think fellows with plenty of money and no brains must have been invented for the good of fellows who have plenty of brains and no money, and that is how we contrive to keep our equilibrium in the universal see-saw." Very happily expressed!

A MORNING AMONG THE WILD FOWL.

BY A FLIGHT SHOOTER.

HOARSE howled the night wind in furious squalls and gusts that shook the rickety window-frames, when a loud voice, resounding from the outer darkness, proclaimed, "It's five o'clock, sir, and the tide's begun to flow." An unworthy feeling, a momentary trepidation may at such times enter the boldest breast, and penetrate even the "triple brass;" but it must be sternly repressed. Again the voice from without; so we rise, strike a light, and after a cup of coffee (we shall be back to breakfast), emerge into the chill night air. Another shudder as we meet that keen salt breeze which moans in fitful gusts along the narrow street down which we pick our doubtful way, amidst piles of mussel-shells and piscatorial débris towards the harbour.



"CURLEWS ON FEED: A MARINE TABLE D'HÔTE."

Only half-past five, yet a knot of fishermen are already, at this early hour, assembled at their "look-out" on the cliff, and in the darkness look, for all the world, like a pack of cormorants that had roosted there. Our crew emerge from among them, and we proceed to plunge and stumble across the rocky, slippery foreshore, where great yellow flakes of foam, storm-driven, whirl towards the land. Then the boat is launched, and we pull away in the darkness, past a couple of wind-bound schooners straining on their cables, and work our way against the flood-tide to the harbour mouth. It is blowing a full gale from the north and west—a most favourable morning for "flighting," as the geese are apt to fly lower when they have a strong wind dead against them. The ducks and widgeon are already on the move before we reach our intended post, and we hear their well-known notes as they speed away seawards on the wings of the wind. There is no chance of a shot at them this morning—though with an easterly gale we sometimes manage to score a pair or two by sunrise.

That dusky object looming ahead is a ridge of rugged plutonic rock, projecting far across the harbour channel, and it is upon it that we propose taking up our position. Here we land J. and one of our crew, and then row off to mid-channel, a hundred yards or so from the point. As the boat swings to her anchor we can just make out the other two ensconcing themselves on the farthest shingly point of the reef. For some time there is little to do but watch the distant flashes of the Longscar light, or listen covetously to the musical whistle of the widgeon, several large packs of which pass towards the sea, but high in air, far beyond our reach. Then a trio of mergansers appear: high and fast they hurry past, regardless of a futile effort to detain them. Seldom is it that these beautiful wildfowl are obtained; once, however, we remember a lovely pair—duck and drake—falling from the very clouds to the shot of a single 8-bore; but the hand that held it was no ordinary one. Look out! that bird coming from the sea about as fast and as straight as a cannon ball, and close to the water, is a grebe. Him a charge of No. 4 cuts down clean, and the gun is hardly reloaded when, with a rush like a whirlwind, a mighty cloud of winged forms hurl themselves upon us from behind; they break their ranks somewhat on seeing the boat, but the bulk of them pass between us and the point, and our four barrels tell effectively, several splashing down into the sea. Up anchor, and we gather half a score—five godwits and an equal number of knots. Shortly after we had got into position again, "Here they come," whispers the skipper, and far away in the dim distance I discern something like the faint edge of a cloud. It is the geese. Lower still we crouch beneath the thwarts, watching them wheel to and fro over the sea. Presently they are heading direct towards us. Keep low! the wind is dead against them, and it is a grand chance for a shot; now they are over us, but at a mighty height. Surely no gun can reach them? But a modern full-choke loaded with double B is a powerful weapon; and though no immediate result followed my double salute, yet it had told. A single goose separates itself from the ranks, and after flying on some quarter-mile alone throws up its long neck, turns over, and falls with a plunge into the sea. Two or three other packs pass over with resonant clamour while we are away retrieving my goose; but J. was ready for them, and again a single goose detaches itself, bravely struggles onwards, and finally, after a perfectly executed "tower," falls dead not far from the boat. It is almost full light ere we regain our anchorage, and shortly the largest pack of geese we have yet seen—over five hundred—essay to run the gauntlet. During a furious squall of wind and snow they pass right between us, and, though at a great height, our four barrels were well placed. One goose fell direct, winged, another pair dropping dead (as the first two had done) some distance beyond. All three were easily secured. Now a little flight of golden eyes appear—five in all—and one duck falls to a long shot, a clean kill.

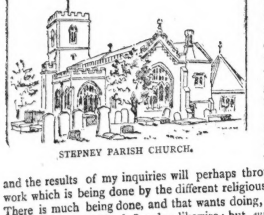
The light was now growing rapidly, and the sky to the eastward already brilliant with the tints of the coming sunrise. Dimmer shine the stars, and fainter and fainter gleams the flare of the lighthouse. Nothing is in sight seawards but a clamorous crowd of laughing gulls and a cloud of sea-mice (dunlins), flashing alternately dark and then silvery white in the early light. Then, just as we begin to think of breakfast, two large birds rapidly approaching on a bee-line catch one's eye; they swerve from the boat and pass right over the point—weird-looking sea-fowl, their long necks and long bodies carried at a slight angle. J. appears to rise from the sea itself—so low and narrow is now his *point d'appui* amidst the rising tide—and the leading bird collapses to the shot and falls headlong, sending up a shower of spray. He is a diver, or "loon" in the language of the coast, and after picking him up we re-embark, for the day is now begun and the "flight" is over. Two or three more divers, and a long string of oyster-catchers, pass along as we pull back up the harbour, hungry as hawks, and not a little stiff and benumbed by the long cold vigil. Never was sound more grateful to my ear than that grating rattle indicative of the grinding of the fragrant berries from Arabia.

C.

THE STATE OF RELIGION IN THE EAST-END.—I.

(BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.)

My instructions from the editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* were to select a representative civil parish at the East-end of the metropolis, and to give without any partiality a fair description of what is being carried out by the Church of England, the Church of Rome, and the various Non-conformist bodies for the moral, social, educational, and religious good of the toiling masses in the East-end of London. I have endeavoured to carry out my instructions without fear or favour, and the results of my inquiries will perhaps throw useful light upon the work which is being done by the different religious agencies in our midst. There is much being done, and that wants doing, no doubt, in the South of London, and in North London likewise; but, *mutatis mutandis*, what is true of an East-end parish applies likewise to districts with more or less similar surroundings, in whatever part of the metropolis they may be situated. It has been said that in such a parish as Kensington, so rooted is the habit of church-going, that if the dullest of preachers occupied the pulpit, people would still go; but there is much truth in what the late Bishop of Manchester said in a sermon at St. George's-in-the-East:—



STEPNEY PARISH CHURCH.

> However it may be with the East end of London, I am not sure whether the West-end has any reason to plume itself on its superior godliness, whether the duke's and duchesses, the earls and countesses, the squires and knights and their ladies are much more like what men and women ought to be than the costermongers and women of the East of London. No doubt at the West-end churches are filled; but if we ask what fills the West-end churches, it is not certain that we can give a satisfactory answer to the question. . . . I was told the other day of a noted preacher who drew an enormous crowd to hear him under the dome of St. Paul's, and yet, immediately the service was over, the people rushed out asking who had won the Grand Prix of Paris.

A TYPICAL EAST-END PARISH.

The Bishop of Bedford, as charged specially with the care of the East-end of London, was naturally the first person from whom I took counsel as to the best typical parish for my purpose, and by a process of exhaustion he arrived at the conclusion that Stepney would be the most suitable. St. George's-in-the-East, he said, thanks to the work of Prebendary Harry Jones, had probably done more than any other East-end parish in the organization of charity; and Whitechapel, from the attention called to it by the murders of last year, seemed a specially appropriate district. Both, however, had, he thought, too small areas for my purpose, and both through Father Lowder's labours in one instance, and those of Mr. Barnett in the other, were generally known to the public. Stepney he considered would, by a process of exhaustion, be the most suitable field for my inquiries. It was at one time the mother church of the whole of the East-end of London. Many people of note formerly lived within its borders, and an old lady still alive, belonging to one of the great families of brewers, remembers a former rector who held another living, and was likewise a college don, who was only in the parish for three or four months in a year. The congregation of the mother church at that time did not exceed forty, although the population annexed to it was 73,000, and there was only one curate. Under the Rev. Joseph Barclay and the present vicar of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, a great improvement took place, the parish church, a very handsome building, having been restored during the latter's tenure of office. The Rev. Edwyn Hoskyns is working hard on moderate High Church lines; but what can he effect with a population of 22,000 when the parish church only accommodates 1,200 worshippers?

THE PARISH AND THE PEOPLE.

These are the numbers attached to the district of the mother church. It is very difficult to arrive at the actual inhabitants of the civil parish of Stepney, because people differ as to what constitutes it. The people do not elect a churchwarden, there being no vestry, as under Sir Benjamin Hall's Act the vestry was constituted at Mile-end, where two churchwardens are chosen at Easter, one at Mile-end New Town and one at Ratcliff for the parish church of Stepney. The parish is split up into hamlets, the areas of which do not coincide with the ecclesiastical districts; and now that Limehouse and Whitechapel—formerly in Stepney—are quite separate, it may be assumed, for all practical purposes, that the population of Stepney proper is about 100,000. Stepney, which had at one time two clergymen and one church for a population of 73,000, extending over a very large area, has now fifteen churches, besides mission chapels, and some forty clergy labouring in the entire parish, in addition to the Roman Catholic and Nonconformist agencies, of which I shall treat later.

CHURCH SERVICES AND CLUBS.

In the parish church, which is open for private prayer all day—and, what is more, utilized for that purpose—there are frequent and well ordered services on Sundays and week days, a special feature being the afternoon musical service, and instruction given after the usual evening service by the rector. Although there is one of the largest and best board schools in London close to the rectory, drawing its 2,500 children largely from other districts, as also another with 1,200 children, the Church schools with 1,500 scholars are in a very flourishing condition, and suitable boys are passed on to the technical schools at the People's Palace, which are doing a grand work. The boys in St. Dunstan's are well looked after from thirteen to seventeen years of age, when in too many parishes they loaf about the street corners. The rough lads are the special care of one of the curates, the Rev. Frank Gurdon, a member of an old Norfolk family, who has a speciality for dealing with them. Boys from the day schools join an Old Boys' Association, for whom a club-room, gymnasium, and classes of all kinds are provided. There are a large number of members of the Girls' Friendly Society; and on Sunday afternoons the rector conducts a class for men, nearly all of whom are communicants, who include dock labourers and artisans of all kinds, with a sprinkling of shopmen. There were 1,000 baptisms last year in the parish church, and the communicants number more than 600. There are four mission halls, and the rector has a staff of six clergy, besides deaconesses, mission women, and Scripture readers. Mr. Hoskyns is of opinion that help from the West-end is impracticable save where ladies will inhabit for a time a prophetess's chamber on the spot, for he reckons that from the time of a lady going up stairs, say, in Belgravia, to put on her bonnet, to the time it is taken off, three hours is consumed on the journey alone. One lady came down to help him, and, stifled by the fog, said she could not with her bronchitis venture again. He suggested her paying a substitute and she has since given him £30 a year towards a mission woman, an example others might well follow.

THE CHURCH AND "THE LAPSED MASSES."

The rector of Stepney is a great believer in self-help. He told the congregation of the parish church in his first sermon that he did not mean to waste his time begging at the West-end; and the fact that £530 was contributed in the offertory last year in that district, and £85 in boxes—a considerable proportion in farthings—shows that his advice has been taken. Some of the pews are still let for the defrayment of church expenses. There is a church council of ten, including the four churchwardens, who deal with all questions of finance; and a relief committee consider all applications for relief, the particulars of each being given on paper. Each case is dealt with on its own merits, sickness being considered to give the first claim to consideration. The question of creed is entirely ignored. Mr. Hoskyns says that the great need of the parish is a second church, with a good club-room as part of the building. He has a large staff of clergy capable of working two churches, but to expect that 1,200 sittings should suffice for such a population as that with which he has to deal is absurd. He has already secured £2,000. His opinion is that though the mass of the people are not churchgoers and somewhat indifferent and alienated through past neglect, they are by no means irreligious, and he mentioned a singular fact that a large percentage of the people do not go out of their houses after the midday meal on Sundays. He spoke of the solid and excellent qualities of the working women, combined with no little grace of manner. There is comparatively little extreme poverty; and though the congregation at the parish church contains many *bonâ fide* poor, they are so respectably dressed that strangers would not recognize them. The problem, however, has still to be solved how the Church is to get hold of the very lowest of the people, who undoubtedly frequent the services held by Dr. Barnardo and Mr. Charrington in their mission halls, which are on either side of the parish church of Stepney.

NEW NOVELS AND TALES.*

In point of mere narrative art, it would be hard to find any fault with Mr. Norris's new story, "Mrs. Fenton;" and the author disarms more searching criticism by modestly calling his work "a sketch." Truth to tell, the characters grouped around the central figure are sketchy enough, even the hero being the merest "Portrait of a Gentleman." But Mrs. Fenton is in her way a creation. She is a new type of adventuress, an amiable Becky Sharp, a virtuous Baronne d'Ange (see "Le Demi-Monde"), a "New Magdalen" who is not a Magdalen, and who is blessed (or cursed) with a sense of humour. We should not like to vouch for the unimpeachable morality of the story; for, despite the strain of commonness in Mrs. Fenton which Mr. Norris carefully and cleverly suggests, we find ourselves according her some-thing very like sympathy, instead of the mere contemptuous pity which is, strictly speaking, all she deserves. We cannot help regretting Fred. Musgrave's constancy to his Cromwell-road Amelia. But for that unhappy might have lived happy and died happy with his seductive Becky. We have already admitted that this is an immoral view of the matter, for, after all, it is impossible to argue away the fact that Becky is a swindler. It is Mr. Norris's fault (or shall we not say his merit?) that we feel we should rather like to be swindled on similar terms and by the same artist. Were it not for the crudity of theatrical effects in general, and English theatrical effects in particular, we would suggest that "Mrs. Fenton" contains the material for a charming tragi-comedy; but where is the actress who could play the title-part?

It is by no mere chance that most of the chapter-mottoes in Miss Bramston's "Apples of Sodom" are taken from the works of Mr. Browning. Her book is a study in that spiritualized psychology of which Mr. Browning is the chief professor. It is a very earnest, very able, and withal a not unhealthy piece of work. The pietistic tone, though unmistakeable, is never strident, and the character-analysis is none the less true for being executed from a religious standpoint. All the leading figures in the story are admirably individualized, and even some of the minor personages—the second Mrs. Constable for example—are firmly and happily touched-in. The tragedy, which is ingeniously and very naturally evolved, rises at some points to a high pitch of spiritual intensity; yet Miss Bramston is never betrayed into morbid over-emphasis. There are touches of humour here and there, but the general note of the book is sad. It is the work of a conscientious and accomplished writer.

As "The Sin of Joost Avelingh" contains sketches of Dutch life too detailed and explanatory to have much interest for those to the manner born, we presume that it is written in English, for English readers. Otherwise we could easily have supposed it a translation from the Dutch, so thoroughly Batavian is its atmosphere. Be he English or Dutch, or a little of both, Mr. Maarten Maartens is a capital story-teller. The starting-point of his tale is excellently conceived. It is one of those cases of conscience which arise out of the uncertainties of medical science—a counterpart to the case of Bulstrode and Raffles in "Middlemarch." There are instances in which a trivial error of judgment, a momentary deficiency in presence of mind, may, for an uneasy conscience, assume the proportions of deliberate murder. It is highly probable that Baron van Trotsem would have died of apoplexy whatever Joost might have done; but the knowledge that he did not do the right thing at the right moment, combined with the consciousness that in his heart of hearts he longed for his uncle's death, is enough to beget the most poignant remorse. The further developments both of character and circumstance are interesting enough; the book is fairly well written; and the aforesaid sketches of Dutch manners and customs are vivid and amusing.

Mr. Brander Matthews possesses in ample measure the American knack of yarn-spinning. He knows how to awaken the reader's curiosity at the outset and hold it to the close, even though the actual matter of his stories may be trivial enough. The weird fantasy of a "A Family Tree" is worked out with plenty of ingenuity, but the tone of the narrative is, to my mind, rather too matter-of-fact. A little of Hawthorne's vagueness would not have come amiss. The "Idle Notes of an Uneventful Voyage" are gay and entertaining; and "On the Battlefield," an excellent story, would have been better, in our opinion, without its last chapter, which is something of a "sell." Of the barbarously-named "Scherzi and Such Stuff as Dreams" we feel that Mr. Matthews obtains his concluding surprise somewhat too cheaply.

"JEZEBEL'S FRIENDS."

"Jezebel's Friends," by Dora Russell (3 vols., Spencer Blackett), is a painful and rather repulsive tale of the "Society" order. Frances, eldest daughter of Colonel Forth, gives birth prematurely to an illegitimate child, and persuades her younger sister, Ruth, to carry it away at night and bury it on the seashore. In defiance of all considerations, whether of pathology or commonplace experience, Miss Forth's escapade is represented as neither unfitting her for partaking in the daily gatherings and social festivities of a garrison town, nor as subjecting her to the slightest suspicion or adverse remark on the part of neighbours; indeed, the occurrence would have altogether eluded detection had not Ruth been observed on her midnight errand by Major Audley, commander of the garrison, who possesses himself of her secret, and by its means forces her to discard the young officer to whom her troth has been plighted, and to accept him instead for her husband. The remaining part of the narrative is a sad record of ill-assorted marriages, intrigue, and seduction. Those who relish tales of this kind will find the characters, such as they are, faithfully and consistently drawn, and the action well sustained throughout.

* "Mrs. Fenton; a Sketch." By W. E. Norris. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1889.)

"Apples of Sodom: a Novel." By M. Bramston. (London: Walter Smith and Innes. 1889.)

"The Sin of Joost Avelingh: a Dutch Story." By Maarten Maartens. (London: Remington and Co. 1889.)

"A Family Tree and Other Stories." By Brander Matthews. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1889.)

FIGHTING THE WATER COMPANIES.

HOW TO SAVE £100,000 A YEAR.

ALTHOUGH we have heard very little of it for some time, the quarrel between the metropolitan water companies and the consumers keeps simmering, and one of these days it may again take an acute form. The matter has been brought under our notice at this juncture by the receipt of a pamphlet by Mr. Archibald E. Dobbs, who, as an old combatant of the companies, knows exactly where recent legal decisions have left us. With one of these he is by no means satisfied. The House of Lords on the 30th November, 1883, gave judgment on an appeal in his action against the Grand Junction Water Works Company which had far-reaching consequences. It settled that the meaning of the words "annual value" was rateable and not gross value, and that rates had to be lowered accordingly. This affected all the metropolitan and also many of the provincial water companies. Five months ago the House of Lords gave another judgment on an appeal in an action against the New River Company which had been proceeding during more than three years. The first action resulted in the complete defeat of the water company. The apparent result of the second is a complete defeat of the consumer; but "the remarkable result of the judgment is the establishment of a right which is worth all the time, trouble, and cost to the public."

As to family residences, used only for family residential purposes, there is no dispute, the proper charge for supply being the annual value rates. Where the building is a place of business, not used as the residence of a family, was the subject of the late litigation. The company has always charged such business premises according to the annual values, and have refused to supply through a meter at meter rates, although the rents are out of all proportion to their value as residences, and the quantity of water used is trifling. Their lordships were very scathing in their criticism of the obscurity of the Act, but they were compelled to find that where a supply was not required for "domestic purposes" the company could not be compelled to supply by meter. As to that Mr. Dobbs has a good deal to say, one section running clearly counter to the decision; but he points out as a clear effect of their lordships' decision that "owners or occupiers of dwelling-houses taking water for domestic purposes at rates on annual value are entitled to be supplied with water by meter for other purposes at charges not exceeding the statutory meter rates." Coffee-house keepers, greengrocers, fishmongers, and public-house keepers, who reside on the premises, all want water for trade use, and in all such cases the practice of the New River Company is invariable. For small users of water they usually add an arbitrary charge to the annual value rate, and refuse to allow a meter to be used. Where much water is used the company compel the firm to enter into an agreement to take supply through a meter, fixing a minimum consumption and charging "at least double the statutory maximum rate." The Act gives no power to fix any minimum quantity, but they justify their procedure by asserting that there is no power to compel water supply for any except residential family requirements under any circumstances. Now, by the recent decision, any one living in a dwelling-house can not only enforce domestic supply, but is entitled to compel supply for other purposes at meter rates. The householder who is charged extra water rates for his garden or his coach-house is exactly in the same position as the keeper of a public-house. Says Mr. Dobbs:—

> The houses affected are every building, being a dwelling-house, and using water for any other than domestic purposes, for which a charge probably excessive—is now made. This will include—(1) nearly every public house, and very many fishmongers, greengrocers, coffee-shops, eating-houses not licensed to sell alcoholic drinks, and so on; (2) dwelling houses—most houses without any sort of garden (unless the rate has been disputed and was given up at the time of the active working of my league, December 1883—November 1885); also (3) stables and coach-houses, where the rate will in many cases be reduced. In some of these dwelling-house shops, and in some private houses, the reduction will amount to from £1 up to £10, in some to three or four shillings. There are more than 150,000 houses supplied by the New River Company. Suppose one quarter are affected by the decision, and take steps to get the reduction. Let the average be 4s. a house affected, the reduction will be £75,000 a year. But that the total houses supplied would be nearer the mark, and at this the lowest average I can take, supposing a house is affected at all, the reduction will be £15,000. A far higher average would probably be true; however, I take the lowest possible average on purpose.

The judgment in the House of Lords in the first case lowered the rates of hundreds, indeed of thousands, of the smaller householders. Finding its income and revenue reduced, the New River Company raised suddenly and considerably the rates paid by consumers in the City, and the second litigation followed. The other companies too increased the amounts levied from the wealthier houses, which before had been rated below the rateable value, and raised the charges for trade supplies, gardens, and stables. The Grand Junction officials admitted that Mr. Dobbs had reduced their rentals by £16,000 a year, but they raised the rates on larger houses, as well as the trade and extra charges, by £18,000, so that they were better off than before. As the recent decision makes these charges to be of more than doubtful legality, will the public be content to pay them? Here is work for the County Council.

If London care nothing for a colossal injustice, but are pleased to grumble in a feeble way, let us pay our rates, and leave the water companies alone. I will be no party to mere harassing the companies. But if they determine to take up the question in a scientific way, by a methodical attack, and test and settle the true meaning of these Acts, I believe more than £100,000 a year could be struck off the rates, and at a cost of less than £20,000. Suppose now that every test case fought by the County Council was lost. it would be £20,000 thrown away: not really *thrown away*, indeed, for the questions would be settled: and the result might be so monstrous that legislation would become necessary. But suppose only one test case were won, the gain could scarcely be less than the whole £20,000 in one year, provided the cases and the points of attack were well chosen. But all concerned remember that in water cases it is very easy to make mistakes. Neither the late Metropolitan Board of Works nor the City Corporation have reason to boast of their success in litigation or other dealing with water companies.

THE NEW ASBESTOS COMPANY (LIMITED).

Mr. J. Alfred Fisher, general manager of the United Asbestos Company writes:—

> My attention has been directed to a letter in reference to the above in your columns of the 14th inst. I am quite of your correspondent's opinion that the "Concessions" acquired by the vendors are of little value. All the known asbestos lands in Italy have been frequently explored by the United Asbestos Company's officials, and we are not aware of any mines other than those held by this company which contain fibre suitable for spinning into thread, cloth, &c. Many properties, principally in Val d'Aosta, have been offered to us, but discarded as worthless. It would be interesting to know where the sixty-two concessions of the New Asbestos Company are situated, and this is a question which intending shareholders should ask. That Italian asbestos is of a very superior description no one who has seen it and understands the subject can for a moment doubt, and for special purposes where a really first-class fibre is required "Italian" is always preferred to Canadian. Italian asbestos millboard also, an article in general use, commands double the price of Canadian, and now that "first cost" is not so important a consideration as when trade was bad, the demand for Italian is fast increasing. Last year, for example, we took from our Italian mines nearly double the quantity we mined in 1888, and this year we shall require at least double the quantity obtained last year. If, therefore, the new company have any concessions capable of producing first-class fibre for spinning and weaving which I very much doubt—they may turn them to useful account; but in any case there can be no question that the enormous price which the public are asked to pay for them is out of all proportion to their value.

BURKE'S "PEERAGE AND BARONETAGE."

Sir Bernard Burke, C.B., LL.D., Ulster King of Arms, has issued the fifty-second edition of his well-known genealogical and heraldic dictionary. The Dukedom of Buckingham and Chandos has become extinct. The meaning of this portentous statement, together with all the other notable events in the peerage history of 1889 cannot be anywhere better learned than in the admirably accurate chronicle this book affords.

Bord's Pianos.—9 per cent. discount for cash or 25s. per month (second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free on CHAS. STILES BORD & CO., 44 SOUTH MOLTON STREET, BOND-STREET, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

READERS LEAVING HOME TEMPORARILY can have the PALL MALL GAZETTE forwarded at the following rates:—Two weeks, 3s. 6d.; four weeks, 7s. SATURDAY'S SPECIAL EDITION posted in time for delivery in the COUNTRY on SUNDAY MORNING, forwarded for 6s. 6d. per annum. Address, The Publisher, *Pall Mall Gazette* Office, Northumberland-street Strand, W.C.

DRURY LANE.—THE NATIONAL THEATRE.—TWICE DAILY at 1.30 and 7.15, AUGUSTUS HARRIS'S Pantomime, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK, produced on a scale of splendour surpassing in magnificence the displays offered to the public by Mr. Augustus Harris in previous years, and performed by a Company of Comedians each of whom is an acknowledged attraction in himself—Messrs. Nelson, Leno, Lauri, junr., Griffiths Brothers, Conquest, jun., Leopold Frobbert, A. E. Pearce (Clown), and Campbell; Misses Vernon, Faudelle, Hewitt, Aiten, and Duggan. Box-office open from 10 a.m. at all times.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—The PREMIER THEATRE of London. Twice Daily at 1.30 and 7.15. Grand CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME entitled CINDERELLA. Written by Richard Henry. The Music by Clement Scott. Invented and produced by Charles Harrison. Acted by the Misses Ella and Edith Chapman, Lizzie Isaacs, Miss MINNIE PALMER (specially engaged for the part of Cinderella), Miss VIOLET CAMERON as THE PRINCE, and the most powerful Company ever seen in Pantomime. Prices 1s. to 10s. 6d. Box-office open continuously from 10 till 10 p.m. No extra charges. "First come, first served."—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

COVENT GARDEN.—Lessee, FREEMAN THOMAS.—GRAND CIRCUS, under the direction of AUGUSTUS HARRIS and FREEMAN THOMAS.—TWICE DAILY at 2 and 8. The Unparalleled Marvellous Musical Tableau, Trained Lion on Horseback (Cecil Howard), with the Magnificent Marvellous Musical Troupe

SERIOUS RAILWAY COLLISION IN AMERICA.

SIX PERSONS KILLED.

A Reuter's telegram from New York says the "Vestibule" express from Chicago to New York, when nearing Cincinnati yesterday ran with terrific force into the rear of another train. Six persons were killed in the collision, and several others injured.

A central News telegram from Chicago says:—Last night an express train from Chicago for Cincinnati ran into the rear of a train of mixed carriages near Cincinnati. Four persons were killed outright and a dozen injured, the engine of the express leaping over the rear carriages of the other train and smashing them to splinters. The wreckage afterwards caught fire, and the Cincinnati fire brigade was hastily summoned to render aid, but before they arrived some of those who had been injured and were lying in the debris were badly burned. The express train was not much damaged with the exception of the engine, but the engineer and fireman were injured. Most of the casualties were among those travelling in the mixed train.

COLONEL NORTH AND THE MID-GLAMORGAN VACANCY

The Cardiff correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* says:—It is understood that Colonel North, the "Nitrate King," will be the Conservative candidate for the vacancy in Mid-Glamorgan, caused by the death of Mr. Talbot.

MR. BLAINE

Mr. and Mrs. Blaine are completely prostrated, owing to the death of their son.—*Dalziel's Agency.*

THE AMERICAN MINISTER.

Mr. Lincoln, the American Minister, returned to London from France yesterday. He brought home with him his invalid son, who had been given up by the French doctors, but who was so delighted at getting back to England again that he has taken a decided turn for the better, and there is now hope of his re overy. Every attention was paid to the party by the French railway companies, and by the London, Chatham, and Dover on this side; and Mr. Henry White, Mr. McCormack, and Mr. Alfred Thorne met them at Calais.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S HEALTH.

Prince Bismarck's health has been the subject of controversy for some time past. Some say that he is in weak health, and others, better informed, maintain that he feels tolerably well, and that there was no ground for any such alarming statements as have been lately circulated. There is truth in this, but a Berlin correspondent says he is bound to add, on the best of information, that Prince Bismarck is, after all, a sufer. Persons who have been his guests during the last fortnight describe the condition of his health as something like hysterical. He does his utmost to show an even temper, and perhaps in no earlier period of his life has he so constantly endeavoured to appear amiable to all who come near him. Yet there is a touch of melancholy about his ways and utterings, as if his mind was preoccupied by some dark or, at least unpleasant matter.

RETIREMENT OF MR. HENRY LESLIE.

It is announced that Mr. Henry Leslie, the well-known chorus director who is now nearly seventy years old, is about to retire definitely from public life. For the last two or three years (says the *Manchester Guardian*) he has lived more or less in retirement on his pretty estate in Oxfordshire, where he has done a good deal for local music. His chief work, however, was the organisation of the well-known London choir which bore his name.

SINGULAR DISCOVERY OF A HOARD.

A singular story comes from Macclesfield. At the police-court yesterday a hawker named Fryer was committed for trial at the sessions charged with stealing £16. The prosecutor was a lodging-house keeper named Foy, who had been excused payment of rates on account of his poverty. His wife died on Saturday, but just prior to her death she pulled a pair of stays from beneath a pillow and handed them to her husband. Foy cut the stays open after his wife's death, and found £130 secreted in them. He gave his wife "a splendid wake," and it was alleged that while he was asleep afterwards the prisoner took the money from his pocket.

THE NEW CENSUS BILL.

The Census Bill to be introduced by the Government will, in addition to the ordinary provisions for securing the taking of the next census on the lines of the censuses of former years, contain proposals for establishing a quinquennial census. There will be no immediate increase in cost, but the expenses of enumeration, which now amount to nearly £200,000 every ten years, will simply occur twice as frequently.

A FAREWELL DINNER TO AFRICAN TRADERS.

A farewell dinner was given last night at the Liverpool Club, Moorfields, under the auspices of the African Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, to Sir William Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, and Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., Governor of Lagos, previous to the r departure for the West Coast of Africa. Mr. Henry Cole, president of the Chamber, took the chair. Both guests responded to thes toast of the r health, and spoke about the position and prospects of the colonies under their charge.

MR. STANLEY AND HIS PARTY.

Mr. Stanley will probably remain in Cairo a month. The other members of his party expect to leave there next week. All look better since their arrival at Cairo especially Surgeon Parke.

One of the first to welcome Stanley at Cairo was a representative of Messrs Sam son Low and Co. Mr. Edward Marston is daily expecting a long and interesting letter from the explorer.

EVANGELICALS AND CHURCH PREFERMENT.

The *Church Times* dissents altogether from the statement of the *Record* that Evangelicals have been ill-treated in the matter of Church preferment. Indeed, it is urged that the facts, "so far from affording warrant to the representative Evangelical journal for the solemn warning it has just uttered, are in reality instances of Lord Salisbury's desire to propitiate all sides."

DEATH OF MR. RICHARD BUCKTON OF LEEDS.

Many of our readers will learn with surprise and regret of the death of Mr. Richard Buckton, head of the well-known firm, Richard Buckton and Son, linen manufacturers, Goodman street, Hunslet. Mr. Buckton was the son of the late Mr. Christopher Buckton, of Halifax. Some forty-two years ago, when he was quite a young man, he came to Leeds and commenced linen manufacture in premises in East-street. His enterprise and integrity enabled him to build up one of the largest establishments of the kind in the county. He served in the town council and became an alderman. A Liberal in politics, he was an staunch supporter of his party and as a Congregationalist was a generous supporter of religious movements.

AUSTRALIA MAKES ITS OWN AMMUNITION.

Hitherto all the ammunition required in Australia has been imported from this country. Arrangements are now completed, however, for the erection of a cartridge factory in Victoria. Land has been selected, the buildings are under construction and the necessary machinery is being sent from England. It is expected that the factory will be completed so as to admit of the delivery of cartridges being commenced in May next.

QUEEN CHRISTINA AND HER MINISTERS.

Señor Alon o Martinez has commenced his interviews with the leaders of the Liberal groups in order to form a conciliation Cabinet. Should he be unsuccessful in his endeavours the Queen Regent will, it is believed, summon a Conservative politician.—*Reuter.*

AN AMERICAN LIVE STOCK SYNDICATE

A syndicate has been formed to control exports of live stock. It is all to be sent through Canada and shipped at ports on the St. Lawrence. The Dominion Government is interested in the success of the scheme, and will assist in its development.—*Dalziel's Agency.*

Mr. Peter Henderson, head of one of the largest seed and florist firms in the United States, died in New York yesterday.

Mr. Chaplin, M.P., will receive a deputation from Kent on the subject of the running of dogs on Wednesday.

The Rev. Father Sistine, a leading astronomer, died yesterday at the Frederick (Maryland) Jesuit College.—*Dalziel's Agency.*

Mr. H. M. Stanley is announced to deliver his fifth lecture in London, under the auspices of the Central Young Men's Christian Association, Exeter Hall.

THE ANTI-ENGLISH FEELING IN PORTUGAL.

MORAL INFLUENCE OF BRITISH IRONCLADS.

Telegraphing on Thursday night the Lisbon correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"The business thoroughfares are thronged with gossiping crowds. The town is full of rumours, the last one of which obtained general credit—namely, that an English as well as an American squadron was outside the Tagus. I am bound to say that it had a marvellous effect on the papers which had countenanced and abetted the riots. They all this morning recommended discretion as the better part of valour, whereas for three days previously their tone was quite different.

The *Seculo* (Republican) publishes an article headed, "The Directore of the Portuguese Republican Party to the Nation," and having the character of a manifesto, although unsigned. This article blames the British Government for its attitude, and advocates a Latin federation, a scheme which, it declares, is gaining ground. Referring to recent events in Brazil the article says:—"The force of this current has already made itself felt among a people who are an offshoot of Portugal in America, and who have formed a Republic under the title of the United States of Brazil." The article, however, does not advocate a revolution, and is couched throughout in moderate language.

THE LATER DESPATCHES IN THE BLUE-BOOK.

Last night's *London Gazette* contains the correspondence which has passed between Lord Salisbury and the British Minister in Lisbon respecting Portuguese aggression in East Africa. Here is an outline of the instructions had been sent to the Portuguese authorities in Mozambique for "a withdrawal below the Ruo of the authorities and forces now in the country of the Makololo, and the removal of all military stations in Matabeleland and Mashonaland." The Portuguese Government seemed to yield. But on January 11 a telegram (for the first time made public) arrived from Acting-Consul Churchill stating:—"To-day's official *Gazette* contains Act of Vindication of Rights. States Mtani surrendered to Portuguese; Katunga and other Makololos swore allegiance; Governor declared to them Portugal resumed possession of entire Shiré basin and region, and will administrate them forthwith." This telegram was closely followed by Burrows (says that the guarantee required by her Majesty's Government is the issue of an order to the Governor-General of Mozambique, instructing him to withdraw all Portuguese troops that are on the Shiré, or in the Makololo country, or in Mashonaland. You will urge on his Excellency the immediate despatch of a telegraphic order to this effect, and you will request that a copy should be shown to you. Unless this is done, Her Majesty's Government must consider the Portuguese assurances as illusory." Acknowledging the telegram from Mr. Petre announcing that the Portuguese Government had yielded to the British demands, his lordship says he trusts that the orders which have been issued to the Mozambique authorities will be sufficiently explicit to put a final end to the complications.

OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Lieut.-General W. G. Cameron, the recently-appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in South Africa, has had it intimated to him that he will be required to hasten his departure, as in the present aspect of affairs it is not thought desirable that there should be an interregnum. General Cameron takes out with him full instructions from both the Colonial and War Offices as to what his course of procedure should be in the event of complications arising.

"TOO MUCH BRITISH CONTROL IN AMERICAN COMMERCE."

The elevator companies of St. Louis have rejected the offers of the British syndicates, the proprietors and directors feeling that too much British control is being obtained in American commerce.—*Dalziel's Agency.*

ANOTHER STRIKE AT THE DOCKS.

There is another strike at the docks. The men employed at Hay's Wharf yesterday left work because their demand for payment for the dinner hour was not conceded. The Wharfingers and Establishment Committee of the London and Indian Docks, meeting to consider the position, decided to adhere to the recent agreement, which explicitly provided that there should be "no payment for meal times." Mr. Mann, on being asked how he justified this departure from the agreement, said that it was not to be binding for ever, and that it was his duty as soon as possible to get a modification of the terms in favour of the men.

WHAT MR. MANN SAYS.

A representative has seen Mr. Mann this morning and finds him confident as to the result of the strike which has been begun at Hay's Wharf. He thinks the proprietors are bound to come to terms sooner or later. At present, since sending their consignments to various other docks and wharves, but the union does not intend to allow this ruse to succeed. The men at these docks are all union men, and will refuse to unload any cargoes primarily consigned to Hay's Wharf.

A TORCHLIGHT MEETING OF TRAM MEN

At an early hour this morning a torchlight meeting, under the auspices of the London and Counties Tramway and Omnibus Employés Union, was held at Stratford Broadway. The attendance was not so large as on previous occasions, owing, it was alleged, to the men being warned by officials against attending the meeting. Mr. T. Sutherst presided, and in the course of his address stated that he had prepared a Twelve Hours per Day Labour Bill for the protection of tram and omnibus employ s, and that a member of the House of Commons had promised to introduce it this session. Resolutions approving of such a bill were passed by the meeting.

THE VACANT POST AT SCOTLAND YARD.

It is not intended to fill up the chief constableship rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Williamson. Mr. Macnaughten will in future act as assistant to Dr. Anderson, the director of the Criminal Investigation Department, and a portion of the work formerly undertaken by Mr. Williamson will be performed by him.

THE ADMIRALTY AND ESQUIMAULT.

The Canadian Government has decided to enlarge the Dry Docks at Esquimault, the British Government having agreed to share the cost.—*Dalziel's Agency.*

ADDITIONS TO THE RUSSIAN NAVY.

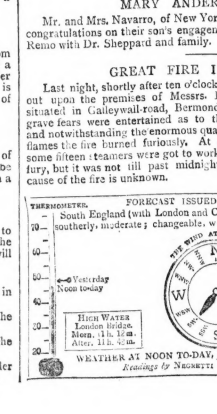
The St. Petersburg *Grashdanin* announces that the construction of a large armed cruiser has just been commenced. Two ironclad frigates are also being built, one at Sebastopol and the other at Nicolajeff, while a torpedo boat has been ordered in Germany.—*Reuter.*

MARY ANDERSON ENGAGED.

Mr. and Mrs. Navarro, of New York, cabled to-day (a *Herald* telegram says) congratulations on their son's engagement to Mary Anderson, who is at San Remo with Dr. Sheppard and family.

GREAT FIRE IN BERMONDSEY.

Last night, shortly after ten o'clock, a fire of an alarming character broke out upon the premises of Messrs. Rolls and Sons, oilcloth manufacturers, situated in Gaileywall-road, Bermondsey. At a quarter to eleven o'clock grave fears were entertained as to the safety of the surrounding property, and notwithstanding the enormous quantity of water which was thrown upon the flames the fire burned furiously. At half past eleven the roof fell in, and in some fifteen steamers were got to work the conflagration began to lessen in its fury, but it was not till past midnight that the fire was extinguished. The cause of the fire is unknown.


FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY.
THERMOMETER.
BAROMETER
South England (with London and Channel).—Westerly winds, strong to southerly, moderate changeable, wind possibly increasing towards night.
Sun Rises 7h. 59m.
Sets 4h. 35m.
Moon—New M. 9th, 11h. 40m. M.
Yesterday Noon today
HIGH WATER
London Bridge, Morn., 11h. 16m.
After, 11h. 42m.
WEATHER AT NOON TO-DAY, Jan. 18, 1890.—Bright, clear; wind fresh.
Readings by NEGRETTI and ZAMBRA'S Instruments.

THE MONEY MARKET.

MARKETS SLUGGISH.—PRICES DULL.—SCARCELY ANYTHING DOING.

One o'clock.

There is practically no change in the condition of the Money Market. Short advances are obtainable at 3 to 3½ per cent, while the discount rate for three months' bank paper remains nominally at 4⅞ to 5 per cent, with little or no business secured at the higher figure. Continental bankers continue to discount bills much below these rates, and consequently the London bill brokers secure no business. Reports are still current of the probable receipt of gold either from Russia or France, but nobody appears to know anything definite.

Stock Exchange operators are still doing but little in the way of new business, and quotations have not varied to any appreciable extent. The tone, however, is again weak, and the majority of the changes are to lower prices. Consols for the account are a further 1-16 down, but in the Home Railway market rather more support is afforded, and except in one or two instances values have improved. The stocks of the Underground lines have risen slightly, and the securities of the heavy lines are harder, but the Deferred stocks of the Southern lines are barely steady. Foreign Government securities are dull and the movements are generally adverse, though there has hardly been sufficient business to test prices. American Railroads are the turn higher, but the market is apparently not a strong one, there being several instances of heaviness. It is stated that the Wisconsin lease to the Northern Pacific has been closed for a term of ninety-nine years on a basis of 15 per cent of the gross earnings to the Wisconsin Central. President Adams, of the Union Pacific, says no action will be taken on the decision in reference to the Inter-State Commerce Railway Association until the meeting of directors. Trunks are practically unchanged, but Canadian Pacific shares are firmer on the traffic. Mexican Railway issues are steady.

An amalgamation of the principal glass bottle manufacturers in the United Kingdom is being arranged, and endeavours are being made to raise the Kingdom's portion of the capital privately. The share capital of the company has been fixed at £1,400,000, in addition to which there will be £350,000 of debentures.

An indication of what was meant in a recent telegram from Cairo as to a counter-move on the part of the Egyptian Government should France continue to retard conversion is given in the *Standard*. The Egyptian Government is a large owner of railways, which would pay much better were they in private hands. A good round sum would be offered for them to-morrow were they on the market. It might be profitably employed in paying off the Preferred debt, and no one would be a bit the worse, while the Egyptian taxpayer would be a lot the better. Afterwards, a similar policy might be applied to the Domain loans. These have been so far poor investments for the Egyptian Government, but they have improved much in the past few years, and now would be a good chance to get rid of them. A combination like the Tobacco Regie in Turkey might soon be formed to take them over, and with the proceeds both the loans secured on them might be forthwith redeemed. The Daira loan has a redemption clause under which the bonds can be bought off at 85, and the Domain loan can be liquidated at par. Sir Evelyn Baring is just the man to delight in a bold stroke of that sort, and not the least part of the fun of it would be the chagrin it would cause at the Quai d'Orsay."

A new chlorination process for extracting gold from refractory ore will shortly be shown in London. The process is being introduced by Mr. E. J. Page.

The directors of the London and South Western Bank announce that in consequence of the continued increase in business they have decided to increase the capital £200,000 by the issue of 10,000 shares, £200 paid, at £32 10s. When the new shares have been allotted and paid, the capital paid up will amount to £600,000, and the reserve fund to £200,000.

The Metropolitan Railway Company note in their report that the offer made to the company to work the trains upon a system of electric traction by "direct current" has not, so far, resulted in a practical experiment, and other offers which have since been made are under consideration. The excursion, having regard to the beneficial effect of places of popular recreation and amusement upon the traffic and net revenue, are in treaty with the Tower Company with a view to induce them to erect their proposed edifice in the immediate vicinity of some portion of the railway.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market opened firm with a moderate demand. Probable sales 7,000 or 8,000 bales. Futures are partially half a point higher.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved:* Metropolitan District and North British Deferred ½ each. Caledonians Great Western, North Western and Midland ¼ each. *Receded:* Great Eastern and Chatham Ordinary ¼ each.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Rises:* Uruguay ½, Egyptian Preference ¼. *Recedes:* French Three per Cents. and Brazilian Scrip (fully paid) ¼, Turkish Group 1 ¼, and Spanish Four per Cents. 1-16.

AMERICAN RAILROADS.—*Improved:* Wabash Mortgage ½, Union Pacific shares ¼, Milwaukee and St Paul ½, Lake Shore shares and Erie Second Mortgage ¼ each, Central Pacific, Louisville and Nashville, and Pennsylvania shares ⅛. *Lower:* Denver Preference ¼, Norfolk and Western Preference ½, and Wabash Preference ¼.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Rises:* Mexican First Preference ¾, and Canadian Pacific ¼. *Lower:* Lombardo Venetian 1-16.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved:* Primitiva Nitrate ½, and Suez Canal ¼. *Receded:* De Beers ⅜, and Rio Tinto ¼.

The following are this day's 10 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.						MINES.		
Consols (2½) money	97⅛	⅜	Chi. Pref. ccrs.	107½	8½			
Do acct.	97⅛	⅜	North Western	179½	½	Indian Consolidated	3/6	4/
Do (3)	104	⅛	South Western	122	½	Hymettus	1½	1⅝
Local Loan Stock	103⅝	⅝	Manchester & Liv.	95	7	Ooregums	2/1⅛	3/1⅛
India 3½ per Cent.	107½	⅛	Do. A	62½	3½	Cape Copper	6⅝	⅜
Do. 4½ per Cent.	72	⅛	Met. Consolidated	77½	8½	Mangapps	2⅛	⅛
Egyptian Guar.	101½	⅜	Do. District	20¾	1¼	Mas ada Zinc	1⅝	⅛
Do. Ill. Week's	102	¼	Midland	146½	½	Rio Tinto	16½	⅜
Do. 5 Series	102	¼	North Eastern	148	½	Montana Glasgow	1 3/4	9/16
Egyptian Guar.	101½	⅜	Do. Deferred	51½	½	Bellevue Swansea	60½	⅜
Do. Ill. Week's	102	¼	North Western	172½	½	St. Helens Recres	15⅜	6½
Do. 5 Series	102	¼	North Stafford	112	⅛			
Birmingham Corp. St.	110½	11	South Eastern	140	31			
Liverpool	112½	⅛	Do. Deferred	104	½	TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES		
			Taff Vale	97	93	Anglo-American	1⅛	2⅛
FOREIGN STOCKS.						Do. Pref.	87	8
Argent. 6 pc. 1883	85	⅛	FOREIGN RAILWAYS.			Brazilian Submarine	12⅛	⅛
Do. 5 pc. Scrip	15½	⅛	Canada Pacific	73½	⅛	Direct Unit. States	20	⅛
Do. Treasury	92	¼	Can. Pacific Stock	85	⅛	Eastern	13⅝	14⅛
Austrian Gold	95	⅜	Chic. Mil. and St. P.	70½	⅛	Do. Extension	13⅝	14
Do. Silver	77	⅜	Denver & Rio Grande	16½	17½	National Telephone	6½	⅛
Braz. Scripts, 4 pc.	77¾	8	Do. Pref.	44½	⅛	Globe Teleg. Trust	8⅝	7/8
Do. 5 pc.	8⅛	7/16	Illinois Central	122⅛	3/8			
B. Ayres 6 pc.	89½	10 3/8	Lake Shore	107¾	⅛	TRAMWAYS, ETC.		
Do. Consol.	89½	1⅛	Louisville & Nash.	71⅛	⅛	London Gen. Om.	13⅜	15
Do. Cedulas	13½	2	Mex. Cen. New Ord.	21⅛	⅛	London Street	14	15
Chilian 6 pc.	91	3	Mex. Nat.	71⅛	⅛	London Tramway	14⅝	15 16
Costa Rica A	81	91	Minn. & Can. & Texas	93½	10⅛	North Metropolitan	17⅝	18⅛
Do. B	81	91	Mex. Cen. New Deb.	71⅛	⅛			
Egyptian State Dom.	93¼	⅞	Minn. & Can. & Texas	93½	10⅛	WATERWORKS.		
Do. Unified	93¼	⅞	N.Y. Cen. Shares	103	3/4	Chelsea Waterworks	213	8
Do. Pre ference	105⅛	⅜	New York Ontario	31¾	1¼	East London	211	13
Do. Daira Sanieh	85½	⅜	Erie Shares	20⅞	7/8	Grand Junction	183	5
French 5 pc. Rents	103½	⅛	Do. Sec. Mort.	103⅛	⅛	Lambeth	211	13
Italian 5 pc. Rents	90½	⅛	Nor. & W. West. Pref.	62½	⅛	Lambeth	238	6
Greek 5 pc. Unified	90½	1⅛	N.Y. & Can. Sh.	34½	⅜	New River	154	9
Hung. Gold Rentes	89½	⅜	North Pacific Pref.	75	⅛	Shiloh Waterworks	113	70
Italian	91	⅜	Pennsylvania Sh.	54⅝	5/8	W. Middlesex	213	4
Mexican 6 pc. 1888	91	⅜	Phila. Read. Sh.	19⅛	⅛			
Peruvian Sols	17	⅜	St. Paul Common	71	⅜	GAS & SUBURBANS.		
Do. Ogs.	18½	⅜	St. Paul Preferred	117	⅛	Gaslight & Coke A	249	52
Portuguese	63½	⅜	Union Pacific Sh.	67⅞	⅜	Imp. Continental	215	18
Russian 4 pc. 1889	91	⅜	Wabash Pref.	38⅝	⅜	South Metro. A	213	5
Spanish 4 pc.	71½	⅜	Wabash Mortgage	89½	⅜	Do. B	213	5
Turkish 1858	101	3	Wisconsin Cen.	23½	4⅛	Do. C	213	50
Series A	40½	1	Do. Pref.	74	⅛	London Electric	3⅛	4
Series B	91	⅜	Grand Trunk 1st	10	13/16	Metropolitan	47⅝	8½
Series D	17½	⅞	Do. 2nd	10	13/16			
4% guar.	101	⅛	Do. 3rd Pref.	23½	⅜	MISCELLANEOUS.		
4 pc. Defence	101	⅛	Do. Guaranteed	76½	⅛	Allsopp	83⅛	4
Spc. Priority	99	7	Mexican Ordinary	30⅞	⅜	Guinness and Co.	237½	42
Uruguay Unified	71½	2½	Do. 1st Pref.	84½	⅜	Hoare and Co.	213	4
Virginia Funded	21½	⅛	Do. 2nd Pref.	43½	⅜	Hoare and Co.	213	4
U.S. 6 pc. 1881	107	8	Nitrate Railway	13⅜	83	Tyrannical May	15⅜	11
						Spratt's Patent	8⅛	⅜
BRITISH RAILWAYS.			BANKS.			Liverpool Nitrate	7	8
Caledonian	12½	7	Alliance Bank	115½	15½	Primitiva Nitrate	19	⅜
Great Eastern	51	⅜	City Bank	22⅛	3½	Salt Union Shares	19⅛	⅜
Great Western	171	7	Consolidated Bank	8½	9	P. and O. Sun. Def.	213	48
Imperial Ottoman	13½	13⅜	Imperial Ottoman	11⅜	⅜	Royal Mail Steam	71	4
Do. A	16½	⅜	London and County	42	3	Union of London	13	⅜
Great Western	169½	⅜	London and West	71	5	Hudson's Bay	23	⅜
Lancs. and Yorks.	21½	⅛	London Joint Stock	18	2	Spez Canal	93	¼
Brighton Ordinary	140	61	National Bank	2½	3	Rand W. Ltd. Debs.	17	23
Brighton A	164½	⅜	Smith, Payne & Smiths	83½	93½	London and Str. R.	57	9
Chatham Ordinary	22½	⅜						

The following are quotations of securities receiving attention at present, and not given in our list above:—

Bell's Asbestos	1⅝	⅛	Oceana Land	13⅜	14⅜
San Jorge	6	⅜	Sutherland Rest.	4⅜	⅜
Tanganyka Water	1⅜	⅛	Transvaal Land	1	Open
City and Suburban	10⅛	⅜	G. F. and S. Africa	9⅛	6
Jump 1 Gold	12⅛	⅜	Exploring Co.	13⅛	23⅛
Jubilee	9⅛	6	Roxendahl's Exploration	4⅜	
Salisbury	1⅛	⅛	Southern Land	⅛	Paper
Ruby	1 1/16	9/16pm	Bastnas's Ordinary	11⅛	13⅛
Lisbon Berlyn	⅝	⅜	El Moro's Copper, &c.	7⅛	⅜

TO-DAY'S TITTLE TATTLE.

Probably owing to the fact that the private view of the Sports and Arts Exhibition took place on a Friday, instead of on the traditional Saturday, there were comparatively few people present, but those who were there seemed to be having a thoroughly good time. Sir Coutts himself escorted Mrs. Langtry, clothed in a long black velvet cloak and dainty little Marie Stuart bonnet, around the second room. But *was* it Mrs. Langtry? No one seemed quite sure. If not, the Jersey Lily must possess a double like her—only more so.

⁂

Mr. Corney Grain, apparently quite recovered from influenza, applied himself to conscientiously "doing the pictures. "Sporting gents" were conspicuous by their absence. Those who knew—or had been told—crowded round the wonderful painting of Eclipse, the paragon chestnut who "was never beaten, never had a whip flourished over him, never was pricked with the spurs, and was never required to put forth his utmost speed." Happy Eclipse!

⁂

The quaint perch of hawks in the fifth room gave general satisfaction, even the hooded birds having an intelligent look that appealed irresistibly to the spectator. More than half the company gathered together at the bidding of the noble committee roamed about catalogueless; human nature revolts at being asked to pay a shilling for a catalogue on a private view day. Among those wending their way through the crowd I noticed Mr, Pigott, Examiner of Plays; Mr. Henry Blackburn, perhaps thinking of past and future "Grosvenor Notes;" Mrs. Jopling Rowe, who came rather late with Mrs. Lewis (Miss Kate Terry); and the correspondent of the only Paris paper which favours its readers with a daily chronicle of the doings of *la perfide Albion*.

⁂

On the press-day of the Sports and Arts Exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery, an incident of minor importance was considerably canvassed—the request preferred to all the writers at the entrance-door to inscribe their name and that of the paper they represented in a book kept for the purpose. This, of course, may be supposed to ensure the Exhibition against the entrance of "improper persons;" but it was considered much more likely that it is to ascertain the names of the writers of the articles, in case the notices may not be altogether complimentary. Surely Sir Coutts Lindsay is hardly well advised in introducing this innovation.

⁂

The *Sporting and Dramatic* is just a little bit "too previous" in its issue of to-day, for it publishes a portrait and obituary notice of "The late Mr. Forbes Dawson." As a matter of fact, this clever young comedian is fortunately recovering from the results of an exceptionally bad attack of influenza.

⁂

The dwellers in a cathedral city in Kent where muzzling prevails, and is as warmly resented as elsewhere, were witnesses of a strange scene a few days ago. One policeman was taking up an unmuzzled dog belonging to a collector of the Queen's taxes, and on his way saw another policeman taking up his own dog for being unmuzzled. The sequel can be imagined. The local laughter has been unextinguishable.

⁂

"A Doll's House" has been produced in New York by Miss Beatrice Cameron, of Mr. Richard Mansfield's company, and has been hardly handled by the critics. As it is only performed at matinées, it is difficult to test the attitude of the general public towards it. In Boston, on the other hand, where the play was treated by the critics much as it was in London, several Ibsen clubs and reading societies have now been formed, after the manner of the Bostonians. Henrik Ibsen, by the way, is just recovering from a severe attack of influenza.

⁂

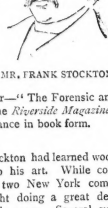
From the sightseer's point of view I suppose the Crypt is the most interesting portion of St. Paul's Cathedral, which is to be the scene of a mournful pageant on Tuesday. Here lie the remains of Wellington, Nelson, Sir Thomas Picton, and Admiral Collingwood. Wellington's sarcophagus consists of a large block of porphyry. Nelson's sarcophagus, which lies exactly under the centre of the dome, is of black marble, and contains the inner coffin made of part of the mainmast of the French flagship *L'Orient*, which was blown up at Aboukir. In a chamber behind Nelson's sarcophagus is the hearse used at the Duke of Wellington's funeral, which was cast from guns captured in the victories of the Iron Duke.

⁂

Margam Abbey, the seat of the late Mr. C. R. Talbot, the "father" of the House, is a noble mansion, erected some forty years since, in the style of English architecture which prevailed in the reign of Henry VIII. Its chief external features are two grand façades, broken by bays, and a tower: the interior is sumptuously furnished. In the midst of the extensive pleasure grounds is a splendid orangery, the age of which cannot be determined. Report has it that this celebrated collection of exotics was intended as a present from a Dutch merchant to Queen Mary, William III.'s consort; but the vessel conveying it being stranded on the coast, the choice cargo was claimed by the lord-lieutenant, who built a suitable house for its reception. The grounds boast an extensive greenhouse, with a handsome palladian front, also a magnificent conservatory, containing a collection of pomegranate, lemon, citron, and shaddock trees; and hard by is a bay-tree reckoned the largest in the kingdom, being upwards of sixty feet in height and forty-five in diameter.

⁂

Mr. Francis Richard Stockton, the author of "Rudder Grange," was born (says the American *Literary News*) at Philadelphia, fifty-five years ago. He is by descent and education a thorough American, though he inherits through his mother's family a slight admixture of French blood. The love of practical joking, so evident in all his stories, was one of the most noted traits of Frank Stockton's boyhood. He grew up in the country near Philadelphia; and here, with his brother John and a constantly attending circle of admiring boy friends, he is still the hero of many ridiculous adventures. Fun and a love of fiction were his only predominant qualities. Before graduating at the Philadelphia High School he fell into literature, trying his pen, first with poetry, without much success, and then with prose. "The Ting-a-Ling Stories" were given to the world at this time. They were first written for a manuscript magazine issued by a club of which he was a member—"The Forensic and Literary Circle"—and afterwards were printed in the *Riverside Magazine*; but it was not until 1869 that they made their appearance in book form.


MR. FRANK STOCKTON.

⁂

In deference to his father's practical views Mr. Stockton had learned wood engraving; but he never remained wholly faithful to his art. While contributing pictures to *Vanity Fair* and *Punchinello*, two New York comic papers, which had but a brief existence, he was at night doing a great deal of literary work in the way of stories, sketches, and verses. Several successful ventures in journalism in Philadelphia finally made Mr. Stockton resolve to abandon engraving for and to become a full-fledged *littérateur*. The acceptance by Dr. Holland for *Scribner's Monthly* of a short story, "Stephen Skarridge's Christmas," was one of the determining causes which made him editor for the staff of *Scribner's Monthly*; but in the autumn of 1873 he joined the staff of *Scribner's Monthly*; but in the autumn of 1873 he became the assistant of Mrs. Dodge on the new *St. Nicholas*. He continued till 1880 his editorial connection with *St. Nicholas*, giving up the position on account of the strain upon his health.

Ford's Pianos.—28 per cent. discount for cash, or 15s. per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month, on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42 SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

MR. GLADSTONE'S ESTIMATE OF DOLLINGER.

The chief feature in the new number of the *Speaker* is an article by Mr. Gladstone on Dr. Döllinger. The article concludes with the following eloquent tribute to the distinguished theologian's memory:—"Döllinger is to be honoured with admiration, for attainments perhaps never surpassed either in their extent or as to the wonderful manner in which he held them digested and at command for use. He is to be honoured yet more fervently, with reverence and love, because in him the spirit of self was down-trodden and extinct, that he might live a larger life; because, pursuing truth as he best could see it, in the spirit of courage and of peace, he united in his aims the things most precious to mankind, and set one more great example for the generations to come."

STIRRING UP THE INTEREST IN MISSIONS.

The missionary meetings which are being held in connection with the visit of the Rev. Dr. Pierson to England were continued yesterday at Marylebone Presbyterian Church, the prominent revivalist delivered a stirring address on the foreign mission field. The very fact of the existence of difficulties that were appalling, he thought, should help to give England a better conception of the magnitude of the work. It was not the case that unless a heathen nation was born in a day foreign missions were a failure, for the fact that in the yield of the earth those things whose which spring up in a night were not worth their growth served to illustrate the other fact that humanity, which was best worth maturing, came to perfection most slowly. Transformations which had been most rapid had been most superficial. Perifaction and putrefaction represented the state of society in heathen countries; and he would like to see the people whom the "Light of Asia" had illumined. Dr. Pierson then turned his attention to the great want of men and money in the foreign mission field. The Church, he said, went to work as if the present generation were to live for ever. He had found that when Christians were most anxious for the salvation of the heathen world they were at the same time more full of life. The separation of the Churches from the masses was due to the want of zeal. It would be necessary to revolutionize Christian missions if they were a failure. He thought that Christian Churches were an even worse failure, but at any rate the mistakes were not so predominant abroad as at home.

A NEW CHURCH.

A new religious body was born yesterday in Anderton's Hotel. The Christly Ethical Church, as the new society is to be called, is the offspring of Dr. David Thomas, editor of the *Homilist*. In the pages of that journal the principles have been preached for forty years, and now he thinks it time that the public recorded his child. A discussion sprang out of the definitions of justification, the atonement, salvation, &c. The gathering ultimately excised all doctrinal points from the prospectus of the new Church, the fundamental principles of which are the inviolability of human life, honesty of all kinds, altruism, and the cultivation of the ethical elements of character contained in the Beatitudes, and it is therefore opposed to war, slavery, intemperance, and despotism in any form. As soon as £500 is subscribed active work will be begun, with frequent outdoor services. The camp meeting, instituted by Wesley, and once so admirably acclimatized in the Slave States of America, is to be developed in England. A letter is to be sent to the religious newspapers announcing the formation of the new Church, and a larger meeting is to be held in May. The Ethical Church intends also to bring out a weekly journal—the *Winnower*—which will sift the wheat from the chaff, from the news of the time, by "excluding from its columns all puerile tales, sensational anecdotes, morbid sentimentalities, fawning adulations of public men, tea-meeting twaddlings, advertisements of questionable morality, and by writing condensedly and paragraphically, in the style of *Truth*." Mr. Labouchere ought to feel proud.

THE EXPERIMENT AT THE EMPIRE.

After giving for four nights at the Empire "a realization in character of Lord Tennyson's dramatic poem 'Ripah'," Miss Amy Roselle changed the selection last evening for Mr. Clement Scott's poem "A Woman and the Law," which is described as "a true story, as related before Mr. Justice Hawkins at the Liverpool assizes."

FAMOUS EARLY EDITIONS OF THE BIBLE.

People who revel in collections of famous early editions of the Bible will (writes the London correspondent of the *Liverpool Mail*) have a treat at Sotheby's next week, when Mr. Norman Ward's library comes under the hammer. Mr. Ward, in the course of a long and blameless life, managed to collect specimens of all the typographical oddities known to bibliophiles. There is a copy of the first edition of what is known as the Great or Cromwell's Bible; black letter with woodcuts. This impression was commenced in 1538 in Paris in the middle of the sixteenth century, whence the printers just managed to escape to London, bringing their types and some completed copies, the rest being burned by order of the Inquisition. This is the Bible which, according to Royal edict, was placed in every parish church in England, the copy being chained to the desk, and diligently thumbed by the parishioner. Lately to the desk, and diligently thumbed by the parishioner. Lately a copy sold for £121, and another belonging to the Earl of Crawford for £111. There is a rare edition of the famous "Breeches Bible," so called because the seventh verse of the third chapter of Genesis is translated, "And they sewed fig-leaves together and made themselves breeches." This edition was printed by Protestants who fled to Geneva in the reign of Queen Mary, in their haste to get in two more misprints, which in these commercial days add to the value of stray copies. Matthew v. verse 9, reads:—"Blessed are the *placemakers*;" and Luke xxi., "Christ *condemneth* the poor widow." There is a rare copy of the first English Bible ever printed, by Myles Coverdale. Copies of this book have sold for no less than £254. There are one or two copies of what is known as "the Great He Bible." This is the first edition of the standard translation, and received its name from a misprint in the fifteenth verse of the third chapter of Ruth, "And *he* went into the city." This was corrected in a subsequent edition, which is accordingly known as "the Great She Bible." The earliest misprints in old editions of the Bible is in the New Testament translated by Tyndale in 1534. A line in the tenth chapter of the Second Epistle to the Corinthians is printed "Let hym that is soche thinke on his wyfe," instead of "on this wise." This is evidently a printer's rather than a translator's error.

MR. CAINE AND SIR FREDERICK ROBERTS'S WORK.

It not improbable that Mr. Caine will lay before the House of Commons, upon going into Supply on the Army Estimates next session, an account of what he considers the splendid work that Sir Frederick Roberts, the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, has been doing among the troops in Hindostan with regard to temperance, and will urge that similar measures should be adopted by the Duke of Cambridge, the Commander-in-Chief, at home.

A DOCK LABOURERS' SOIREE.

Since the arrival of men like John Burns and Ben Tillett among them, the dock labourers have become accustomed to live joyously, and it was therefore a good idea of the promoters of last night's temperance meeting at the Scandinavian Sailors' Home at the West India Docks to bring the hoer face to face with several speakers who are at least as eloquent on the drink question as were the leaders of the strike on that of "fair wages for a fair day's work." But Mr. and Mrs. Welin are wise in their generation, and before talking to the tired and half-starved men of the beauty of abstinence, they invited them to a thoroughly substantial "meat tea," at which some two hundred dock labourers sat down. It is certainly a very satisfactory scene to see a large roomful of weather-beaten workers, with faces scrubbed unnaturally clean, enjoy a plentiful meal; but there is also something pathetic and almost appalling in the sight of the old men with shaky, rheumatic hands, hurrying down cup after cup of scalding tea to wash down the tremendous slices of bread and dripping or macaroni, pudding, and meat, and in the young men ravenously demanding another and yet another plate of meat, each of which would be sufficient to feed a small family. However, the men enjoyed their meal, and were ready and eager to attend the meeting which followed, and at which equally strong meat was provided for the mind as had been given an hour ago for the body. After the opening of the meeting by a hymn, Miss Gertrude Smith delighted the audience with the favourite temperance song, "A Little Bit of Blue," which the young lady had very effectively set to her own music. Mr. Clayton, the well-known temperance speaker, then gave a cheerful, cheery address. Then Mr. Grove followed with one of those stirring speeches which have made him a favourite on every platform. Great was the merriment as he launched into the East-ender's vernacular and talked about the "Seven Dials Swells," "the devil's pigs' swill," the "twopenny doss," &c., &c., and interspersed his remarks with some touching story or other. Lady Hope and Lady Ashburton, who were also on the platform, then took some part of the meeting, and finally Mr. Larkin, the former publican of Burton-on-Trent, related the story of his "conversion" with a dramatic force which held the men spellbound to the end. Over twenty men and lads took the pledge at the end of the meeting, which was in every way successful, and reflects great credit on the heads of the Scandinavian Sailors' Home, who thus extend their help and hospitality to the English working man as well as to their own countrymen in the London Docks.

CREMATION SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.—Full information can be obtained.—9, NEW CAVENDISH-STREET, PORTLAND-PLACE, W.

THE LADY'S RACE ROUND THE WORLD.

Miss Bisland, of Louisiana, the young lady who started on a tour round the world to reach New York on the 27th of this month, will arrive this morning at Villeneuve Saint Georges, twenty miles from Paris, at four o'clock. She is too late, however, to take the French steamship *La Champagne*, which was booked to sail at seven this morning. Consequently (says the *New York Herald*) Miss Bisland has missed transportation, and can only reach New York by sailing from Queenstown on the *Bothnia*, which unfortunately is a twelve days' ship, from Liverpool to New York.

WANTON DESTRUCTION OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

In a voluminous paper on the "India Office Records," which he read yesterday before Lord Harris and the Indian Section of the Society of Arts, Mr. F. C. Danvers, registrar and superintendent of records, deplored the deficiency in existing documents dealing with the earlier periods of the East India Company. To some extent the confusion into which these had fallen was apparently the result of deliberate destruction. In support of this assertion Mr. Danvers stated that in 1858, by order of the then registrar, twenty-one tons of miscellaneous documents belonging to the Secretary's office were sold as waste paper for the trivial sum of £158 0s. 10d.; and again, in 1860, an enormous quantity of books and papers, amounting to 317 tons, were, at the instance of Sir Charles Wood, then Secretary of State for India, similarly disposed of, realizing about £3,095.

THE STRIKE OF EAST-END SHIRTMAKERS.

The strike at Messrs. McIntyre and Hogg's, which we reported on Thursday, still continues, and has spread to the outdoor workers of the firm. It was a touching thing on Thursday and Friday to see these very poor women, to whom their few shillings a week mean so much, bringing in their work and going away empty handed, refusing the offered work rather than supply the places of the indoor hands, who had struck in their turn, without any grievance of their own, have stopped working to help the cause of the men. On Wednesday the strikers held a meeting in a room at the Great Assembly Hall, and elected a strike committee of men and women. A room immediately opposite to the factory was obtained as a committee-room, an elaborate system of picketing established, and a strike register taken on Thursday morning. Those whose needs were most pressing were sent to work elsewhere, but most of the workers prefer to wait and resume their old places. Three machinists who offered their services at a neighbouring factory would have been taken on, and machines actually bought for their use, if they would have agreed not to leave directly the strike was over, but this they would not do. If it were necessary, all the machinists could find work within a week in the present state of the market. The fact (a correspondent assures us) has tried in vain for hands. No single new hand, man or woman, has been secured, and the few who remained in have either come out or given due notice that they will do so. On Thursday night there was another meeting, at which Miss Black, hon. secretary of the Women's Trade Association, Mr. S. N. Fox, and Mr. J. D. F. Schloss (both of whom are treasurers of women's trade unions in the East-end) urged upon the women the need of forming a strong union of shirtmakers. Officials were at once elected, and on Friday a large number of women gave in their names. On Friday at midday a deputation of four waited on Messrs. Hogg with a letter declaring the respect and attachment felt by all the workers for their employers and for all the officials, with the exception of the one obnoxious foreman, and urging the firm not to destroy the long-established harmony by his reintroduction. An answer will be given on Monday at latest. Subscription sheets are being circulated through other houses in the trade in order that those who are most in need may receive a little this evening; but no appeal is made to the general public. The conduct of all the strikers has been admirable, and the police who have stood about day after day in Copperfield-road seem to have enjoyed the ease and leisure of their position, and are on the most friendly terms with the pleasant-mannered and peaceful pickets.

NELL GWYNNE PORTRAITS AT AUCTION.

Early in February an interesting sale of portraits illustrating the life of Nell Gwynne will be held at Sotheby's. Most of the impressions are noted (writes the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*) for their fine condition and rarity. By the mezzo-tint engraver, Valentine Green, there is a fine impression of Eleanor Gwynn, a three-quarter length figure in oval frame, sitting, directed slightly to the right. Another portrait of the same personage is Macardelle's print, also after Sir Peter Lely. Of the descendants of Nell Gwynne, the collection includes a portrait of Lord Aubrey Beauclerk, the eighth son of Charles, Duke of St. Albans, the son of Nell Gwynne. Special notice should be taken of a likeness of James II. when Duke of York, by William Fairthorne.

A MYSTERIOUS COUNT AND A MARVELLOUS MACHINE.

"The visit of a certain French count to London," writes the regular gossip of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, "has given us much to think of beyond the limits of the ordinary. His studies have been followed in participation with his disease, both mental and bodily, by which we have been assailed. This Count P., who, strange to say, seeks no publicity, is one of the most learned men of the century. His studies have been followed in participation with the experiments of the great experimentalists, the late Ruhmkorff, whose latter was generous enough to own that it was under the direction of Count P. that he accomplished most of his greatest inventions. The wondrous reel invented by the Count is still considered the most marvellous conquest of science. Upon this reel is wound a length of silver wire measuring 75,000 metres. Two magnetic needles crossing each other in a contrary direction are placed upon the reel, and suspended by a slender thread. The apparatus works under glass like a watch, so that no tampering with the mechanism is possible. It is mounted, moreover, on a high stand. The Count takes his hold of the two conductors, to which are attached the two ends of the silver thread rolled upon the reel, and bids you order the machine to move to right or left, according to your will. Under this power alone, hitherto misunderstood or underrated—this, the mightiest power in the universe, according to Count P., the power of the Human Will—the machine will act without the contact of touch. To right: to left! will the reel revolve, according to the fancy of the visitor. Without speech, without touch, by the mere mental influence alone, will the machine move in obedience to the unexpressed command. In all cases does the machine answer unreservedly. It is to mand. the powerful will alone—the concentrated and fixed determination—that it can be made to reply. Ruhmkorff used to laugh immoderately at the vacillating movement of Count P.'s machine when the savans of the Academie were induced to try the experiment. With some the wire would tremble and vibrate, then start to one side, then move towards the other; while with others it would refuse to move at all, but confine its trembling vibration to one spot. The experiments made by Count P. in London have all been exhibited strictly in private. His object in coming here is merely to obtain wire more finely spun than any he has hitherto been able to get in Paris. They say that, contrary to the general rule, the Count, though having been all his life a confirmed materialist, has been converted to the highest degree of religious faith, to conviction of the lofty destinies of man, and his connection with the Divinity—man has abused his gifts and delivered himself to evil, but the Divine essence is still within him. So fearful has the philosopher been of the pursuit of the fantastic coteries who practise the art of scientific inquiry merely seek to derive amusement from the most serious experiments in science, that he has sought a retreat in a convent near London, and his excuse of being compelled to return thither by eight o'clock is made to reply to all invitations to dinner, or to 'see set parties,' or to 'small-and-earlies' with which the fine ladies of London would seek to overwhelm him."

⁂

The number of visitors to the Tudor Exhibition yesterday exceeded 1,500, a very high figure for the time of year.

⁂

The Rev. Father Lestine, a well-known astronomer, died yesterday in the town of Frederick, Maryland.

⁂

The House dinners at the National Liberal Club will commence on the day after the opening of the session. The chairman is to be Sir George Trevelyan.

⁂

Mr. James Smith, of Spennymoor, champion draught player of England has been stricken with paralysis, and lies dangerously ill at his home, Durham-road, Spennymoor.

⁂

French meteorologists have lately made the agreeable discovery that M. Eiffel's tower will be of far more value for scientific experiments than was originally imagined.

⁂

The City Branch of the Imperial Federation League is gaining wide support among bankers and merchants. Several subscriptions have been received or promised from leading City men.

⁂

Miss Esther Barnett, a young pianist who has carried off the highest honours at the Guildhall School of Music (where she was a pupil of Mr. T. Wingham), will leave London next week for Frankfort, to study for twelve months under Madame Schumann.

⁂

At yesterday's annual meeting of the committee of the Civil Service Lifeboat Fund, presided over by Mr. W. H. Haines, chief clerk of the Home Office, Mr. Charles Dibdin, the honorary secretary, reported that during the year the fund had contributed £4,500 to the purse of the National Institution towards the endowment of the new boat *Civil Service No. 6*.

CADBURY'S COCOA is absolutely pure and unstamped with. It has stood the keenest analytical tests, and consists solely of the concentrated essence of the Cocoa bean, the flavour being developed and the aroma improved by a special process of roasting.

DR. DOLLINGER AND THE VATICAN DECREES.

The following letter from the late Dr. Döllinger, though not new, will (the Rome correspondent of the *Times* thinks) have a certain interest for the Protestant world, as it is believed by his friends at Rome that it expresses his latest views on the subject of which it treats. It was addressed to the pastor of the American Episcopal Church in Rome, the Rev. Dr. Nevin, and said:—"I suppose your influence is sufficiently strong to get a short article or notice inserted in one of the Liberal papers contradicting the lies that have been spread all over Europe respecting my contemplated or consummated submission to the Vatican Decrees. I have neither written one word nor said anything which could have given occasion to such a rumour. The circumstances are gratuitous inventions. I have only which are mentioned in some papers are gratuitous inventions. I have only three weeks ago published a lecture, in which I state in so many words that nobody possessing a scientific culture of mind can ever accept the decrees of the Vatican Council. Having devoted during the last nine years my time principally to the renewed study of all the questions connected with the history of the Popes and the Councils, and, I may say, gone again over the whole ground of ecclesiastical history, the result is that the proofs of the falsehood of the Vatican lie are present to a demonstration. When I am to d that I must swear to the truth of those doctrines my feeling is just as if I were asked to swear that two and two make five and not four."

EMIN PASHA AND HIS SISTER.

Frïulein Melanie Schnitzler, a sister of Emin Pasha, and still resident in Silesia, has received a letter from Lieutenant Schmidt, dated December 8th, reporting the accident to her brother, and adding that he has sustained a fracture of the skull and injuries to the face and breast. The writer adds, however, that Emin hopes soon to recover, and return to Germany, in order once again to see his sister.

AUSTRALIAN KICKING AGAINST THE HOME VETO.

In connection with the Divorce Bill recently passed by the Victorian Parliament, and which has recently been sent to England for her Majesty's approval, it is understood (says a Melbourne telegram) that representations are being forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Governments of Australia against the vetoing of bills dealing with colonial domestic legislation.

THE FAILURE OF THE PRINCE OF MANTUA.

At the London Court of Bankruptcy yesterday the first meeting was held of the creditors of the Prince of Mantua and Monferrat, who states that his full name is Charles De Bourbon D'Este Paleologus Gonzaga. The bankrupt's mother, the Duchess of Mantua, attended, and proved for £430. The chairman, quoting from the bankrupt's works, said that in October 1870, a valuable presentation appears to have been made to him by Welsh miners, the presentation including gold nuggets, a sword of State, and a gold State coronet. The bankrupt said he could not accept the testimonial, because he found he was expected to give an equivalent. It was further stated that the Duchess and Prince of Mantua and Monferrat were entitled to the appellation of Princess and Prince of the House of David. No resolution was passed.

TELEGRAPHIC CODES AND THE COMPANIES.

In Winchester House yesterday the twenty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Direct United States Cable Company was held, Sir John Pender acting as chairman. According to the directors' report the estimated revenue for the half-year was £42,356 12s. 1d., being £8,600 odd better than for the corresponding portion of 1888. This improvement is attributed to the operation of the 1s. tariff during the whole period, whereas in 1888 the rate for four months. The for two months of the half-year, and other expenses, exclusive of cost of repairs of cable, amounted to working and other expenses, exclusive of cost of repairs of cable, amounted to £15,500 5s. 8d., leaving a balance of £26,847 6s. 5d. as the net profit of the half-year, making with £2,719 2s. 11d. brought forward from the previous half-year, a total of £29,566 9s. 4d. For the corresponding half-year of 1888 the expenses were £10,475 6s. 9d. Interim dividends of 5s. each were paid for the quarter ended September 30, 1888, and of 3s. 6d. for the quarter ended December 31, together amounting to £21,218 10s., have been declared and the balance of £8,347 16s. 4d. on the revenue account has been carried forward.

The chairman said the increased revenue would have been larger but for the cable interruption. The pool traffic at 1s. showed a reduction on that of 1888 of about 20 per cent., as compared with the 1s. rate. There had been several reductions in the expenditure, which was the lowest on record for any corresponding half-year since the company was formed. The importance of their policy of prompt repairs, especially during competition, could not be overestimated, and that policy had been carried out with complete success. If such a system had been carried out all round there would have been £30,000 more in the pool to divide to-day. That was a very large sum for a half-year. The reserve fund was now £242,027, and £35,000 from that fund had been used for repairs in the last two years. Six months hence he would have to make an important proposition about the reserve fund, which he thought would strengthen the company without materially changing its dividends. Although freely drawn upon, the reserve fund was still a source of strength, but should be improved. The company's investments were now worth about £264,000, or nearly £25,000 more than they cost. (Applause.) They were not in an unsatisfactory position on the whole. The present dividend compared favourably with that when there were only six or eight Atlantic cables: but there were now ten cables to share it with. Formerly, when the tariff was 2s., the earnings of the company never quite touched a million sterling. Now the gross income of the companies was about £800,000. He would like to see the million back. He did not see his way to change the 1s. tariff. Their cable was never in a better position, with custom steadily increasing.

The adoption of the report was seconded by Mr. Ford, and carried *nem. con.*

A shareholder expressed his regret that the Paris Exhibition had not increased the company's profits. He was amazed at the want of telegraphic fervour amongst Americans in Paris.

Sir John, in reply, said that Americans were all men of business, and the ladies were "men of business" too. (Laughter.) They invented a little code by which one word conveyed all the information necessary. The ingenuity of merchants in constructing codes was indeed amazing. The increase of codes prevented high dividends. As much matter as would occupy a large sheet (said the chairman, holding up a paper as large as the *Pall Mall Gazette*) was now compressed into two words. As a merchant, he had been amazed at the abbreviations used.

The usual formalities concluded the meeting.

ACTION FOR DAMAGES THROUGH THISTLES.

An amusing case was heard yesterday at Loughborough county court, where a retired lawyer, named Giles, claimed five guineas from a farmer named Walker for damage to his garden through thistles. It was stated that Walker's field, 300 yards away, grew thousands of thistles, the floss from which was carried by the wind into Giles's shrubbery and garden, being caught by the trees. Giles said he had employed three men and a woman pulling up the thistles. After four hours' hearing the jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, assessing the damages at three guineas. The defence was that the thistles grew on the surrounding land also.

DEATH OF THE DEAN OF MAGDALEN.

The Rev. Canon Aubrey Moore, tutor and Dean of Magdalen College, Oxford, and tutor of Keble College, honorary canon of Christ Church, and examining chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford, died at his residence in Oxford on Thursday from congestion of the lungs following an attack of influenza. Canon Moore had recently been appointed Dean of Magdalen College in the place of the Rev. H. R. Brantley.

PUBLIC FUNERAL OF A FRENCH LADY.

The first public funeral ever given in Paris to a lady not of Royal rank took place yesterday. The body of Mdme. Kestner, mother of Mdme. Floquet and grandmother of Mdme. Jules Ferry and of M. Bavier Chauffour, was conveyed from her house to the Eastern terminus, followed by an imposing procession. All the members of the Ministry, a great part of the Chamber of Deputies, the entire staff of *La Republique Française* (which she helped to found), and most of the Alsatians in Paris, went to the funeral of the deceased lady, who at the age of eighty-five succumbed to influenza.

THE FAILURE OF BANKERS AND MERCHANTS.

At the London Court of Bankruptcy yesterday the Chief Official Receiver Sir R. S. Hawkins, appointed Mr. W. William Hariatt, accountant, as special manager under the failure of Messrs. Artola Hermanos, foreign bankers and merchants, of London and Paris. The debtors were stated to be largely interested in a contract relating to the Anglo-Vasko Navaro Railway in Spain, their claim for work already done by them as contractors for the railway amounting to £300,000. In the course of the proceedings the hope was expressed that the joint committee of action might be arranged between the special manager and the syndicate appointed under the bankruptcy proceedings instituted in Paris.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LORD NAPIER'S FUNERAL.

The funeral of Lord Napier in St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday next will be made the occasion of a somewhat imposing military display. The whole of the troops, from the garrison of Aldershot to the cathedral, will be lined with troops, and it is expected that 1,000 or 1,200 officers and men in full uniform will follow the hearse in the procession. The Duke of Cambridge and all the leading military officers in town are expected to attend. The grave will be in a separate recess near the tomb of the Duke of Wellington, and the funeral service will be conducted from under the dome. By the special desire of the deceased, the Rev. Edgar Sheppard, sub-dean of the Chapel Royal and domestic chaplain to the Duke of Cambridge, will read the funeral service, while Canon Gregory will read the lesson. The service will be fully choral, and during its progress the band of the Royal Engineers will play the "Dead March" from Saul in open space in front of the cathedral. The arrangements have been largely in the hands of General Sir Martin Dillon and General Sir Peter Lumsden, and also of Canon Fleming, of whose congregation deceased was a member. Deceased desired the plainest possible funeral, but it was felt it was only right that the last tribute to so brilliant a commander should be of a fitting character. The Dean, who is now at Dover, at once gave permission for the interment to take place in St. Paul's on Monday.

There has been no funeral in St. Paul's with full military honours since the funeral of the Duke of Wellington on the 18th of November, 1852, over thirty-seven years ago. The last interment in St. Paul's was that of Lord Mayor Nottage. The previous notable funeral was that of Sir Bartle Frere. Tickets for the ceremonial will not be issued by the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's, but by the relatives of the deceased, to whom all applications should be made.

MR. GLADSTONE AND COLONEL SAUNDERSON.

A Belfast correspondent having drawn Mr. Gladstone's attention to the statement of a clergyman made at a public meeting at Lurgan in the presence of Colonel Saunderson, M.P., and not reproved by the honourable member, to the effect that Mr. Gladstone regarded the "Invincible murders" as "harmless trifles," has received from the right hon. gentleman:—"Sir,—I thank you for sending me the report. I cannot complain of Colonel Saunderson for hearing the speaker in silence, when I consider the liberties he himself takes when he declares his intention to resist the law if a certain measure pass which he disapproves. And as to the speaker, if he derives pleasure from venting matter of this kind I should be sorry to deprive him of it.—Your faithful servant, W. E. GLADSTONE. January 13, 1890."

LONDON SUBWAY RAILWAY BILL ABANDONED.

The promoters of the North and South London Subway Railway Bill have, it is understood, decided to proceed further with their bill in the coming session of Parliament. The proposed line was to have commenced in the parish of St. Pancras, at a point on the north side of Buck-street, and have passed from thence in a direct line to Westminster, where it would have passed under the Thames to a junction with the authorised London and Southwark Subway at the Elephant and Castle. It is rumoured this afternoon that several other of the "Subway Railway" Bills will shortly be withdrawn.

DEATH OF A FAMOUS OPERATIC SOPRANO.

The death is announced at Wiesbaden of the famous operatic soprano Frau Peschka-Leutner, who appeared in London, at the Crystal Palace and elsewhere, as far back as 1872, and who also took part in Herr Franke's season of German opera at Drury Lane ten years later. The deceased, who was a daughter of the well-known German singer, Herr Leutner, was born at Vienna in 1839, and studied first under Herr Proch, and afterwards under Frau Bockholtz-Franconi. She made her début as Agathe in Weber's "Der Freischütz," at Breslau in 1856; married Dr. Peschka in 1861, and, saving as to a tour in England and the United States, which she undertook in 1872-3, she for nearly nine years, until she left that city for Hamburg in 1877, was one of the leading prime donne at the Leipsic Opera-house.

TO-DAY'S NEW BOOKS.

(Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do not preclude further review should such seem to be necessary.)

COOKSON, Lieut.-Colonel FIFE. "The Empire of Man: an Essay in Verse; together with other Poems." (Kegan Paul.)
[Cloth. Pp. 64. Price 2s. 6d.]

ROSSLYN, Earl of. "Sonnets and Poems." (Remington and Co.)
[A volume of verse, dedicated to the Queen. Cloth. Pp. 314.]

SMEDES, SUSAN DABNEY. "A Southern Planter." (John Murray.)
[The English edition of a work recently *noticed* in the *Nineteenth Century* by Mr. Gladstone. Cloth. Pp. x., 298.]

SHIPLEY, WILLIAM, D.D. "The History of the University of Dublin." (Longmans, Green, and Co.)
[From its foundation to the end of the eighteenth century, with an appendix of documents. Cloth. Pp. xii., 436. Price 12s. 6d.]

VEITCH, SOPHIE, F.F. "Duncan Moray, Farmer." (Alexander Gardner.)
[6s. in three volumes.]

VINCE, CHARLES ANTHONY, M.A. "Christian Conduct." (Hodder and Stoughton.)
[Sermons preached in Mill Hill School. Cloth. Pp. 216. Price 5s.]

We have also received the following books:—"My Rectors" (Skeffington and Co.), "Hermione" (Blackwood), "Master Rockafellow," by L. M. Cobbold (Blackwood), "Our Home in Aveyron" (Blackwood), "A Thousand Miles on an Elephant in the Shan States (Blackwood), "Two Pardons," by H. S. Vince (Ward and Downey: 3 vols.), "Cricketer's Almanac, 1890" (Wisden), "Lockhart's Ancient Spanish Ballads" (Rout edge, 1s.), "Love and Disbelief" (Roper and Drowley), "What I Saw in India" (Paisley: Padone), "A Naturalist in Photography" (Sampson Low), "Tales from *Blackwood*," "To the Golden Gate," by Samuel Storey (Scott), the *Journal of Education*, 1889, "Treatise on Loan Associations" (Appleton), "Exercises on the German Grammar" (David Nutt), "Tricks with Cards" (Warne), "Rhigas Pheraios," by Mrs. Edmonds (Longmans), "A Tale of Three Nations" (Ward and Downey), "The Ethical Teaching of Froebel" (Kegan Paul), "Brave Men in Action" (Ward and Downey), "Memories of the Months," by Hume Nisbet (Ward and Downey), "Troublesome Daughters," by L. B. Walford (Spencer Blackett), "A Chaplet of Amaranth" (Burns, "Three People's Secret" (Simpkin, Marshall), "The Nether World" (Smith, Elder, and Co.), "The Chains of Fate" (Simpkin, Marshall), "Dublin Castle" (Harrison and Sons), "History of Felstead School" (Simpkin, Marshall), "The Christmas Box and How It Earn's Gift" (Simpkin, Marshall), "Rogues" (Chatto and Windus), "The Public Regulation of Railways" (Putnam's Sons), "A Musician's Birthday Book" (Scott), "Raymi" (Henry and Co.), "Life and Letters of Dr. Stevenson" (Nelson), "Miko Tashiki" (Putnams), "English Land Letters, &c." (Sampson Low), "The Citizen Reader" (Cassell), "The Devil is Dead, &c." (Gilbert and Rivington), "The Light of Reason" (Kegan Paul), "Cause" (a poem) (Kegan Paul), "Bound by Love" (Arrowsmith), "Liberty and Living" (Putnams), "Elocution, Voice, and Gesture" (Marcus Ward and Co.)

"CLEANING SILVER."—All difficulty in keeping silver, electro-plate, &c., untarnished and with a brilliant polish, may be overcome by using GODDARD'S NON-MERCURIAL PLATE POWDER. Sold everywhere in boxes 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. Four Gold Medals awarded.

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The Harmony Gold Fields are bounded on the north-east by the Letaba and Letsitele Rivers, and the Selati, Malatsje, and Ngabisi Rivers run through the south and south-west portions. Four great Gold-bearing belts, including the "Free States," "Murchison," and "Gravellote," traverse the property, their direction being about west-south-west to east-north-east. The aggregate length of these Gold-bearing belts is upwards of 40 miles.

On the South-Eastern extension of these great Gold-bearing belts are the Murchison Range Proclaimed Government Gold Fields, upon which are the mines of the Murchison Crown Property, French Bob, Velentin, Gravellotte, Quagga, &c.; where are also many thousands of claims pegged out and being developed.

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This Company is now in full work upon its section. Shafts have been sunk upon five reefs, and a telegram from the Company's manager, on the 2nd inst., states they are working eight and two shifts. The average value is 5 feet wide, and at 60 feet level assayed 22 ounces to the ton.

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The Company will, as sections are got ready, form Sub-Companies to work them, and, considering that the four Gold-bearing belts segregate about 60 miles in length by from one to three miles broad, it is evident there will be room for a large number of Sub-Companies annually for many years. In addition to these formations, there are indications of Gold upon other portions of the Fields.

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